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Japan

Gorbachev Visit to Japan

Pre-Gorbachev Visit Activities; Leaders Comment

Kaifu Promises 'Every Effort' on Islands

OW1504153991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1504 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—On the eve of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu pledged to top executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) he will make every effort for the return of four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido, party officials said.

During a meeting between Kaifu and four top LDP officials at the prime minister's official residence, LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi urged Kaifu to have "frank talks" with Gorbachev on the territorial dispute.

The islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—have been held by the Soviet Union since the closing days of World War II.

Kaifu assured the LDP executives he will brief them immediately after his third round of talks with Gorbachev on Wednesday.

Mutsuki Kato, chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council who attended the meeting with Kaifu, quoted a report from LDP think tank the General Affairs Policy Institute as saying Gorbachev will pay lip service to Japanese leaders on the territorial issue without making concrete proposals.

Kato told Kaifu the Japanese side should not lay its cards on negotiating table as the Soviets have not indicated their own intentions toward the territorial dispute and other issues, the officials said.

The prime minister replied it is unlikely he will resolve the territorial problem in his three round of talks with Gorbachev, they said.

The policy institute's report calls on the government to be prudent on economic assistance to the Soviet Union, saying Tokyo should agree to grant the aid after the Kremlin promises to return the islands.

The report said the government should not discuss the possible return of only two of the islands—the Habomais and Shikotan—or joint rule over all four, which Moscow may propose.

It said the government must avoid the interpretation it would buy the islands from the Kremlin, and it should not indicate the total amount of financial aid it is prepared to offer.

Foreign Minister Previews Visit

OW1504161991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1225 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama by Hatsuhisa Takashima, Moscow Bureau correspondent Kobayashi, and Foreign Ministry correspondent Nishimura; Nakayama is in the Foreign Ministry offices in Tokyo and reporters are in NHK studios—live]

[Text] [Takashima] Mr. Foreign Minister, I have some questions. We have just discussed the Northern Territories. I believe that talks on the Northern Territories are in for rough weather. I think the Japanese Government has a basic plan for talks with the Soviets. Would you explain this plan?

[Nakayama] Yes, the Japanese Government's basic plan for talks with the Soviets are to have all four northern islands returned to Japan. The islands are historically ours.

[Takashima] Correspondent Kobayashi has just noted, however, that in addition to the basic plan, if the Japanese Government does not go along with the Soviet request for talks on other matters, the Soviets would find themselves in a difficult position. How much flexibility will you allow in the talks?

[Nakayama] When the Japan-USSR joint declaration was issued in 1956, the Soviet Union promised Japan that it would return the two islands of Habomai and Shikotan. I think that if the Soviet Union definitely recognizes Japan's sovereignty over the remaining two islands, Kunashiri and Etorofu, Japan might come to believe that talks on the territories are on track and Japanese-Soviet relations have been strengthened.

[Kobayashi] Mr. Foreign Minister, I am Kobayashi, from NHK's Moscow Bureau. The Soviets have said all along, just as Kohl did, that Japan should first assist perestroyka and only then would the two countries hold talks on resolving pending political issues. Do the Japanese have that much patience?

[Nakayama] The two countries will resolve longstanding bilateral issues. The Japanese Government's view is that talks on the islands' return will be on track when the Soviet Union definitely recognizes Japan's sovereignty over the islands. If this happens, Japan plans to talk to the Soviet Union about various forms of possible cooperation between the two countries. Japan has no intention of buying the islands. Japan intends to have the islands returned. Japan, as an economic giant, plans to cooperate with the Soviet Union in promoting perestroyka, which is currently in trouble.

[Nishimura] Mr. Foreign Minister, I am Nishimura, NHK's Foreign Ministry correspondent. In view of domestic public opinion, the Japanese Government should try to come up with some results during talks with the Soviets while President Gorbachev is in Japan. Some people say that if the Japanese Government fails to make further progress or to take steps toward enacting the joint declaration, this would be viewed as no achievement at all. Are you confident that there will be progress?

[Nakayama] I believe that if top Japanese and Soviet leaders share the view that drastic improvement in Japan-Soviet relations would contribute to stability and peace in the Asia-Pacific region, the solution of this issue would be headed in a very positive direction.

[Takashima] Mr. Foreign Minister, as has been mentioned in this studio, it seems that the Soviets have strong expectations about our economic cooperation and intend to promote their perestroyka policy, or economic reform, with the support of this cooperation.

[Nakayama, nodding] Yes, yes.

[Takashima] Does Japan, for its part, intend to propose large- scale economic cooperation to the Soviets during the summit?

[Nakayama] Well, the talks have not actually started yet. If there is any substantial turnabout during the talks on the territories issue, we feel that there will certainly be room for thorough consultations on economic cooperation with the Soviet Union in accordance with the principle of expanded equilibrium.

Since we have decided on a national policy of confirming the correct orientation of Soviet perestroyka in order to support it, we sincerely hope that during his talks with Prime Minister Kaifu tomorrow, President Gorbachev will offer substantial consultations on various bilateral issues so that new developments will occur.

[Takashima] I would like to ask a question from an entirely opposite standpoint. As you know, there have been many reports of domestic political difficulties faced by President Gorbachev. He has had to tackle economic problems and has been criticized, in a sense, by both conservatives and reformers. We have frequently pointed out these facts, too.

Under such circumstances, we doubt very much that it will be possible for President Gorbachev to make political decisions and wonder if he visits Japan with the power to do so. Mr. Foreign Minister, what do you think?

[Nakayama] We know he is having difficulties with various domestic, economic, and republic issues. Since he will be visiting Japan in a dignified manner in his capacity as president and representing the Soviet Union as a nation, it would not be appropriate for us to link his domestic problems to the talks or set preconditions with regard to them. Rather, it is our understanding that the most important thing is for each side to do its best so as to make this historical summit between our two nations a success.

[Takashima] Well, I think you surely have a point there. It has been reported that President Gorbachev visited the Japanese cemetery in Khabarovsk today; the vice minister at the Foreign Ministry has commented on this visit. As far as the Japanese Government is concerned, is such an action by the president prior to his visit here a good sign?

[Nakayama] Well, as far as we, the Japanese people, are concerned, we still remember, deep in our hearts, that when the war ended, nearly 600,000 Japanese were detained in the Soviet Union and forced to work as prisoners of war, and, in fact, nearly 60,000 Japanese lost their lives in that foreign land. Our people still hold such sad memories in their hearts.

In visiting the Japanese cemetery, however, President Gorbachev has indicated his thorough understanding of our people's feelings. Thus, the president himself has tried to turn over a new leaf in Japanese-Soviet relations by trying to overcome such unhappy and painful memories. Therefore, I view his visit to the cemetery with high regard.

[Takashima] Mr. Foreign Minister, you must be very busy today and have difficult negotiations ahead of you. Thank you very much for joining our program today.

After the summit, we would like to have you as our guest again and have you brief us on the talks, and furnish us with some inside stories on how the talks were conducted. Again, thank you very much for joining us this evening.

Gorbachev Khabarovsk Visit Welcomed

OW1504141991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Monday welcomed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit earlier in the day to Khabarovsk to pay his respects to Japanese soldiers who died there during World War II as prisoners of war.

But some former POW's felt the gesture was inadequate, arguing that Gorbachev should do more to atone for past Soviet actions.

Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama told reporters that Japan "thinks highly" of the Soviet leader's decision to visit the memorial tombstone ahead of his visit to Tokyo on Tuesday.

Kuriyama said Gorbachev's stopover in the Soviet Siberian city underscores an agreement to be signed by the two countries during his visit to Tokyo under which the Soviet Union will supply lists of the deceased Japanese POW's.

Moscow has also promised to identify the locations of other gravesites, agree to their upkeep, and facilitate visits there by Japanese relatives.

Kuriyama said that taken together, the Soviet Union's latest actions will help resolve the POW issue, thus contributing to an improvement of bilateral relations.

Gorbachev was the first Soviet leader to pay tribute to the estimated 60,000 Japanese POW's who died during 11 years of detention in Soviet Siberia and Mongolia. Some 300 of the internees were buried in the Khabarovsk cemetary visited by Gorbachev.

Teigo Kusachi, 87, who heads a group of former Japanese Kwangtung Army soldiers, said he was not very interested in expressions of regret from Gorbachev.

"It doesn't matter how much he shows his regret," Kusachi said. "We want to see it expressed in terms of deeds."

Kusachi, who is scheduled to meet with Gorbachev as a member of a delegation of former POW's, said he will make a direct appeal for the return of the four islands the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

"If that happens, then the Soviet Union would really have recognized its past errors," Kusachi said.

Daisaku Takahashi, 66, who is involved in a book project to document the lives of Japanese POW's in the Soviet Union, said he was grateful for the gesture by Gorbachev.

But Takahashi, who visited Japanese POW graves twice last year, said there are still too many unanswered questions.

"Why were so many of us sacrificed and forced to spend so many years stuck in Siberia?" He said. "I cannot comprehend it, unless the president mentions that and offers an apology."

Rokuro Saito, 67, president of the All-Japan Former Internees' Association, also welcomed Gorbachev's visit to the Khabarovsk graves, saying he was pleased the Soviet leader chose to lay flowers at the site.

Volskiy Comments on Capitalism

OW1604084691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—One of the officials most closely involved in the Soviet attempts to convert to a market economy said Tuesday it will require more than economic assistance to shake off more than 70 years of communist thinking.

Since the Russian Revolution of 1917, Soviets have been taught to think that "capitalism is hell," Arkadiy Volskiy told reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Japan, adding the Soviets need "intellectual assistance" in converting.

Volskiy also said the Soviets welcome Japanese assistance and advice, but declared that the time for ultimatums regarding the bilateral territorial dispute is over.

Appealing for intellectual know-how in market economics, Volskiy, who is the president of the Science and Industrial Union, said the Soviets know nothing of the supply-and-demand theory of economics and have no concept of stocks.

He urged patience also with the Soviet economy, saying changes could not happen overnight.

"Following the revolution of 1917, it took eight years to eliminate private ownership in industry and 13 years to accomplish the same thing in agriculture," Volskiy said, adding, "we can't be expected to reverse the trend in the last two years."

Asked about a model of capitalism to emulate, Volskiy did not think it would be wise to copy the U.S. alone or Japan.

The Japanese succeeded because they transplanted the ideas of advanced nations onto their own soil, Volskiy said, adding the Soviet Union must do the same now.

This will be complicated by the lack of infrastructure in the Soviet Union and by the more than 100 ethnic groups inhabiting the sprawling nation.

Volskiy denied that Japanese firms are more cautious about doing business with the Soviet Union than the U.S., saying, "if you look at the current situation in our country, any company would be cautious."

"But this is the time for making good business," he added quickly.

Volskiy lamented, however, that because of "30 years of a dialogue of the deaf and mute" between the two nations because of the disputed northern territories, bilateral trade for the two nations is lower than that in any other bilateral relationship.

He called this "impermissible," especially "as neighbors."

Volskiy said he knew nothing of the price tag of 26 to 28 billion yen in economic cooperation put on the return of the disputed islands by members of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

But, he added in jest, "the more, the better."

Volskiy hoped the Gorbachev visit would be a time for progress in a number of areas and cautioned, "this is not a time for ultimatums," alluding to Japan's position that discussions of economic cooperation cannot be initiated without progress on the islands issue.

Asked how he thought the current crisis gripping the Soviet Union might have been prevented, Volskiy said he would have "done everything possible to prevent strikes" and decrease or eliminate a number of taxes.

Sakhalin Governor Urges Integration

OW1504131991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Soviet Union and Japan should create a broader joint economic zone to integrate the Soviet Far East and northern part of Japan, Sakhalin's governor said Monday.

Governor Valentin P. Fedorov told a press conference in Tokyo the two countries should learn from the European Community's overcoming of borderlines and proposed an economic zone between the southern Kuril Islands and some part of Japan or even between Sakhlain Province and Hokkaido, with no visa requirements.

Fedorov, a former international economic researcher, said, "the process of integration would also contribute to the leveling down of military deployment in the region."

He and Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Federation, share common ground in seeking ways to improve stalled ties with Japan by calling for Japanese cooperation, Fedorov added.

He proposed further expansion of sister city relations between the provincial capital of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Japan's Asahikawa, Hokkaido, or between Korsakov and Monbetsu. He also urged the launching of direct flights between Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Sapporo and a ferry service between his province and northern Japan.

"The betterment of bilateral ties is critically important for Sakhalin," said Fedorov, who referred to being banned from visiting some places during a tour of Hokkaido.

The governor said he had proposed plans on transportation routes be agreed during President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan from Tuesday-Friday, but the Soviet Foreign Ministry told him "things are not yet ready for that."

On the four disputed islands off Hokkaido, Fedorov said a declaration by the Deputies' Congress of the Russian Federation last year requires a referendum to change borderlines and Russians agreeing to give up the territories is unimaginable.

"If the Soviet leader accepts the Japanese offer, he would be sacked, and the Japanese leader would similarly be criticized if he compromises. This is not a time for a hasty conclusion," he said.

Comments on Atomic Plant

OW1504145291 Tokyo **KYODO** *in English 1430 GMT 15 Apr 91*

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The governor of the Soviet Far East province of Sakhalin on Monday urged promotion of a tripartite venture in oil and natural gas drilling off Sakhalin be written in a joint statement during President Mikhail Gorbachev's Japan visit.

Valentine P. Fedorov said he asked Soviet officials to include the proposed oil and gas field development project by the "Three M" firms—leading Japanese trading firm Mitsui and Co., major U.S. engineering company McDermott International Inc., and Marathon Oil Co., also of the U.S.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Gorbachev are expected to discuss the possibility of economic cooperation and sign some related documents, although Japan argues the Soviets should recognize Japanese sovereignty over four disputed islands before Tokyo provides loans and other forms of official economic assistance.

The project is to supply energy to Sakhalin itself, unlike the oil development work of the Japan-Soviet firm Sodeco (Sakhalin Oil Development Co.) started in 1975 which is mainly to supply energy to the Soviet mainland.

Fedorov, speaking at a press conference in Tokyo, said Australian and Canadian firms are sounding out the Soviets about developing the continental shelf off Sakhalin for energy resources.

The governor stressed he would select the best proposals from foreigners with a view to promoting a market-oriented economy in his province.

He said priority will be given to projects in the interests of Sakhalin, the Soviet Far East, and then its closest neighbor Japan.

The interests of third nations comes next, Fedorov said.

Formerly an economics researcher at a government-run institute in the Soviet capital, Fedorov criticized Moscow's borrowing of 180 million dollars of foreign credits for Sakhalin development that he said is left unused and its interest has only swollen to 80 million dollars.

Asked about possible construction of an atomic energy plant on one of the disputed islands, he said there has not been such a discussion as far as he knows.

Touching on the Chernobyl nuclear power disaster in 1986, the governor said he is suspicious of atomic energy and Japan and the Soviet Union should make careful examinations if such a plan arises.

Gorbachev Arrives; 1st Day Activities Viewed

Greeted by Nakayama

OW1604015891 Tokyo **KYODO** *in English 0139 GMT 16 Apr 91*

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Gorbachev, the first Kremlin leader ever to visit Japan, flew into Tokyo international airport at Haneda after a two-hour flight from the Soviet Far East city of Khabarovsk.

During a 2-day stopover there, the Soviet leader presented a floral tribute at a memorial tombstone for Japanese prisoners of war there in what he called an "act of reconciliation."

On arrival at Haneda Airport at 10:22 A.M., Gorbachev was greeted by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Ambassador to Moscow Sumio Edamura, and other Japanese officials. He was accompanied by his wife Raisa, Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and about 20 top aides.

Tight security was imposed in the capital, with 22,000 police officers mobilized for the protection of the Soviet leader.

The Soviet president will attend a welcoming ceremony at the Akasaka Guesthouse in the morning and meet with Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace around noon.

Gorbachev will hold the first round of summit talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in the afternoon and then proceed to a Soviet arts festival concert, before attending a court banquet at the Imperial Palace in the evening.

Gorbachev will hold three or four rounds of summit talks with Kaifu during his three-day stay in Tokyo, covering a wide range of bilateral and international issues.

The focal point of their talks is expected to be the long-standing bilateral dispute over four Soviet-held islands off northeastern Hokkaido.

The four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II continue to represent an impediment to fully-fledged ties between the two countries.

Japan maintains that the Soviet Union must return the four islands before it can sign a peace treaty and commence full-fledged bilateral economic cooperation.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has reportedly hinted at its readiness to provide some 26-28 billion dollars in economic cooperation to the Soviet Union for the return of the four islands.

Gorbachev said Monday in Khabarovsk that he will not sacrifice the four islands claimed by Japan in exchange for economic assistance.

Gorbachev is expected to unveil a comprehensive peace initiative for the Asia-Pacific region when he delivers a speech in the Diet on Wednesday.

Gorbachev will fly to Cheju Island, the southernmost island of South Korea, on Friday for talks with South Korean President No Tae-u, after short stopovers in the ancient Japanese city of Kyoto and the atomic-bombed city of Nagasaki.

Welcomed by Emperor at Guesthouse

OW1604041691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a historic four-day state visit and was welcomed to Japan by Emperor Akihito at a solemn ceremony at the Akasaka State Guesthouse in central Tokyo.

Tight security blanketed the building, with the perimeter of its grounds guarded by police officers stationed at 20-meter intervals.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrived at the guesthouse at 11:40 A.M. Gorbachev and the emperor shook hands, then chatted for a few moments before they introduced their spouses—Empress Michiko and Raisa Gorbachev—to each other.

The two couples then walked out to the front entrance of the building, where they stood to attention as a military band played the national anthems of both countries.

The emperor then introduced the presidential couple to Crown Prince Naruhito and other members of the Japanese imperial family, followed by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his wife Sachiyo.

In bright sunshine, Gorbachev then reviewed an honor guard of the Ground Self-Defense Force, glancing with a smile at a group of sailor-suited schoolchildren waving Soviet and Japanese flags.

After the 20-minute welcoming ceremony, Gorbachev and the emperor rode together to the Imperial Palace for an official reception.

Earlier, fine spring weather greeted Gorbachev as he stepped onto Japanese soil for the first time at Tokyo's Haneda Airport after a two-hour flight from Khabarovsk in the Soviet Far East, where he made a two-day stopover on his way to Japan.

Gorbachev and his wife Raisa emerged from the Aeroflot plane at 10:30 A.M. to be greeted by a line of Japanese and Soviet dignitaries and a 21-gun salute.

The Soviet president, wearing a blue suit with a striped tie, smiled as he was introduced to the dignitaries, chatting briefly with each of them. He was followed by Raisa, who was dressed in a gray suit with a red dress blouse and bow tie.

Gorbachev made no arrival statement.

Kaifu, who will be meeting Gorbachev later in the day for the first of three scheduled rounds of talks, said he hopes the talks with Gorbachev will lead to a "drastic improvement" in bilateral relations.

"There have been obstructive factors in (bilateral) relations because of the situation before and after the end of World War II, but I hope to drastically improve such relations and establish friendly relations," Kaifu said. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev, Kaifu Begin Talks

OW1604093691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0547 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday and plunged into talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in a crucial meeting expected to focus on a nagging territorial dispute that has beset bilateral ties for decades.

The meeting, which began at 2:35 P.M. [0535 GMT] and is scheduled to run for three hours, is the first of at least three rounds of talks the two leaders have scheduled during Gorbachev's four-day visit to Japan, the first by a Soviet head of state.

Japanese officials said the meeting will focus on the territorial issue, in which Japan demands the return of four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev and Kaifu appeared to have hit it off in their first contact, exchanging pleasantries for several minutes—so long, in fact, that protocol officials appeared anxious that the meticulously organized schedule might be put back. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Urged To Return Islands

OW1604102491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Tuesday called on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to return four disputed islands off northern Japan, saying the time has come for the leaders of the two countries to make a "political decision" on the issue.

Japanese officials said Kaifu outlined the Japan's territorial demand in the first round of talks with Gorbachev at the Akasaka State Guesthouse.

The session, which lasted just over three hours, was the first of three scheduled rounds of talks between the two leaders.

Kaifu, referring to the territorial dispute between the two countries, was quoted as telling Gorbachev that "the atmosphere has come for the leaders of the two countries to make a political decision."

The leaders agreed not to release details of their talks over the territorial dispute, Japanese officials said.

Gorbachev told Kaifu that the two countries should bring their relations to a new level, saying that they should not miss the chance to achieve improved ties.

Japanese officials said Kaifu and Gorbachev agreed to have frequent dialogues at the summit level. Gorbachev also extended an invitation to Kaifu to visit the Soviet Union, the officials said.

Gorbachev's spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko called the first summit meeting between the two leaders "a good start."

The four disputed islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai islets—were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

The dispute over the ownership of the islands has prevented the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two nations and prompted Tokyo to withhold economic cooperation that might help salvage the stricken Soviet economy.

'Serious Breakthroughs' Possible

OW1604113391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu held talks Tuesday on a bilateral territorial dispute and agreed the two countries must work to drastically improve their ties, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said the two leaders discussed the intractable dispute over four islands off northern Japan and the related issue of concluding a belated peace treaty in three hours of talks at the Akasaka State Guesthouse in central Tokyo.

Citing the delicate nature of the negotiations, officials said both leaders agreed not to divulge details of their discussions.

Gorbachev, who arrived in Tokyo earlier in the day for a four-day visit, is scheduled to meet with Kaifu for two more sessions on Wednesday.

Japanese officials briefing reporters on the meeting described the discussions as "frank and direct." Vitaly Ignatenko, Gorbachev's spokesman, called it "a good start."

Outlining Japan's demand for the return of the four islands the Soviet Union has occupied since the end of World War II, Kaifu told Gorbachev the time has come "for the leaders of the two countries to make a political decision" with respect to the territorial issue.

He noted since Gorbachev came to power in 1985 there have been seven foreign ministers' meetings and another seven meetings of working groups set up since 1988 to discuss a peace treaty, which hinges on a settlement of the territorial dispute.

Gorbachev was quoted as telling Kaifu, "the opportunity is here to bring our two countries' relations up to a new level—we should both think what to do in order not to miss this opportunity."

"The Soviet Union and Japan are and always will be neighbors. So, we must consider how we are going to live together in the future," said Gorbachev, the first Soviet head of state to visit Japan.

Ignatenko, in a separate briefing for foreign reporters on Tuesday's session, said the two leaders saw the meeting as a "possibility for very serious breakthroughs."

Gorbachev told Kaifu at the opening of the talks that "finally, two great powers get together to discuss the problems that have been accumulating between them," adding the dialogue should be conducted as one "between good neighbors," Ignatenko said.

Gorbachev said he expected a "new dynamic" in the relationship to emerge from the meetings with Kaifu.

Ignatenko refused to comment further on the content of the talks, saying the meeting was held in a "very businesslike and very serious atmosphere."

The talks between the two leaders will continue Wednesday and they agreed a fourth "eye-to-eye" meeting may be possible, he said.

Gorbachev formally invited Kaifu to visit the Soviet Union, Japanese officials said.

The talks Tuesday represent the first bilateral summit meeting since March 1985, when then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone met Gorbachev in Moscow after attending the funeral ceremony of his predeccessor, Konstantin Chernenko.

The dispute over the four north Pacific islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomais—has posed a major obstacle to a full-fledged political and economic relationship between the two north Pacific powers.

Japan maintains the Soviet Union must return the islands before it will sign a peace treaty and commence full-fledged economic cooperation.

1st Round of Talks Viewed

OW1604131591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] [Announcer] Soviet President Gorbachev visits Japan today as the first Soviet head of state to visit this country. In the first round of summit talks with Prime Minister Kaifu held this afternoon, the two leaders agreed that, taking advantage of President Gorbachev's visit this time, efforts will be made to seek drastic improvement in Japanese-Soviet relations. From the very beginning of the talks, Prime Minister Kaifu and President Gorbachev exchanged opinions on their basic positions on the focal issue on the northern territories.

[Video cuts to show reporter Kenzo Sano, identified by caption, at the Foreign Ministry] [Sano] Soviet President Gorbachev, who is visiting Japan as the first Soviet head of state, started summit talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the State Guest House at approximately 1430 [0530 GMT] this afternoon. They lasted for just about three hours.

At the beginning, Mr. Kaifu stated that he welcomes the visit to Japan by the first Soviet head of state and that he highly evaluates certain achievements made through efforts in the international community to change history. He expressed his high evaluation of the perestroyka policy and new thinking diplomacy that President Gorbachev has implemented.

Touching on Japanese-Soviet relations, Prime Minister Kaifu said that the two countries have been accumulating great efforts to improve bilateral relations and that conditions have now been created so that decisions will have to be made between the Japanese and Soviet leaders. Thus, he asked President Gorbachev to make a political decision to settle the northern territories issue.

In response, Mr. Gorbachev said: This time, I have come to Japan with the hope of elevating Japanese-Soviet relations to a new level during my visit. We view the current Japanese-Soviet relations with high regard. However, despite the fact that the cold war already has become an anachronism, no corresponding moves have been made between Japan and the Soviet Union. There now are opportunities for us to upgrade the relations between our two nations; we should not let such opportunities pass by.

Thus, the leaders of the two nations have reached an accord on their views that with President Gorbachev's visit to Japan as a beginning, the two nations should make efforts drastically to improve bilateral relations.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Kaifu brought up the focal issue of the northern territories. Penetrating discussions were held on this issue. However, because the two leaders agreed that no details concerning the discussion on this issue should be disclosed, it remains unknown what concrete discussions actually were held on the issue.

A Japanese participant in the talks stated that the Japanese side stated at the talks what should be pointed out. It was observed that from the basic standpoint that the four northern islands are Japan's inherent territories, Prime Minister Kaifu has urged at the talks that Japan's sovereignty over the four islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and Etorofu must be acknowledged. However, it remains unknown as to whether President Gorbachev has made any proposals. This participant also stated that the talks will reach a climax at the final round of talks. Therefore, it was observed that each of the two sides merely has stated its own basic position at today's talks.

At today's talks, President Gorbachev formally extended an invitation to Prime Minister Kaifu to visit the Soviet Union. Two rounds of the summit talks are scheduled for tomorrow, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. It is observed that more penetrating discussions will be held on the northern territories and other issues.

Gorbachev Meets Emperor Akihito

OW1604064291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0626 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, accompanied by his wife Raisa, met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace on Tuesday and expressed his pleasure to be the first Soviet leader to visit Japan, a senior official at the Imperial Household Agency said.

It was the first meeting between a Japanese emperor and a top Soviet leader.

According to Kiyoshi Sumiya, the agency's grand master of ceremonies who was present at the 50-minute meeting, Gorbachev said, "I am very glad to be here, although it took a very long time for me to make my first visit to Japan."

Gorbachev was quoted as saying he will do his best to make the summit talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu a success.

The Soviet leader told the emperor he felt that Japan's technology and culture are harmonious.

The emperor responded by saying Japan after a long period of national isolation opened itself to the outer world and has introduced Western technology.

The imperial couple presented an Arita flower vase to the president and a brocaded Saga handbag to the first lady, Sumiya said.

Gorbachev presented the emperor with a decorated vase, and the Soviet first lady gave the empress a set of jewelry, including a necklace and a ring.

The two couples also exchanged photographs—a portrait of Gorbachev alone and a portrait of the imperial couple taken together.

Raisa quipped that her husband "is too busy with perestroyka to take a family picture."

"We will send you one later on," she said, evoking laughter all around.

The Soviet first couple, who arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday morning by way of the Soviet Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk, is scheduled to attend a court banquet at the Imperial Palace.

In his speech at the banquet, Gorbachev is expected to invite the imperial couple to visit the Soviet Union, according to Soviet officials.

Gorbachevs Attend Concert

OW1604130291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa enjoyed a classical music performance at the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan Concert Hall in Tokyo's Ueno area so much Tuesday evening that they broke from a tight schedule and extended their stay at the concert hall.

Under pressure of a busy schedule, the Gorbachevs were to have spent only 30 minutes at the concert, held to commemorate their visit to Japan, before leaving for a state banquet at the Imperial Palace.

After arriving at the hall on schedule at 6:27 P.M., the Gorbachevs, accompanied by Japanese Prime Minister

Toshiki Kaifu and his wife, Sachiyo, were greeted by a round of applause from the audience.

On the way to his seat, Gorbachev was heard to quip that he would have to sack the Soviet chief of protocol because the schedule only allowed him to hear one item on the concert program.

The Gorbachevs then heard 1990 Moscow Tchaikovsky concours winner, Japanese violinist Akiko Suwanai, play the 19th century Polish composer Henryk Wieniawski's variation, "Souvenir de Moscou."

The Gorbachevs were scheduled to leave the concert barely 24 minutes after entering the hall. But at the close of the Wieniawski piece, the Soviet president stood briefly and gestured to the audience, who had risen in anticipation of his departure, to indicate he would like to stay and listen to more.

The gesture was greeted with a round of applause from the audience.

Suwanai then played the first movement from a Ravel violin sonata and the Gorbachevs finally left to further applause and waves to the audience at 7:10 P.M., fully 17 minutes after they were originally scheduled to depart.

Gorbachev Mingles With Crowd

OW1604140791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev halted his limousine and plunged into the crowd in Tokyo's downtown Kanda area Tuesday evening, taking his appeal for improved Japan-Soviet relations to the average Tokyo citizen.

Hundreds of people lining Sotobori Street hoping to catch a glimpse of Gorbachev responded with cheers and shouts of "Gorby, Gorby" as they surged forward against police barricades to greet the smiling Soviet leader.

Gorbachev, the first Kremlin leader to visit Japan, shook hands and mingled with the jubilant crowd for nearly five minutes.

Nervous police and bodyguards assigned to protect Gorbachev vainly attempted to put up a barrier between the president and his new-found fans.

Gorbachev, returning with first lady Raisa from a Soviet classical music concert at the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, then stepped into his heavily armored Zil limousine and sped away.

Gorbachev Speaks at Banquet

OW1604133691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—The following is a full text of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at a banquet at the Imperial Palace on Tuesday. (This was released by the Imperial Household Agency).

On behalf of my wife and myself I'd like to heartily thank Your Majesties, the government and people of Japan for your hospitality and cordiality. During the first hours of our stay in Japan we have felt a sincere wish to do everything possible for this first ever visit of the head of the Soviet state to become a milestone in the development of our bilateral relations.

Our countries and peoples are neighbors. Our relations date back centuries. There are many historical evidences of mutual attraction by the Russians and the Japanese to each other. The writings on Japan by our writers, travelers, journalists, from the first decades of the previous century to the present, are filled with sincere respect to the Japanese, to their rich unique culture and originality.

We appreciate the interest with which your countrymen, starting with Kodayu two centuries ago, have been writing about Russia.

We like Japanese poetry, classical prose; we also have keen interest in modern Japanese literature. We like your fine arts and theatre. At the same time Russian classical literature has found deep understanding in Japan. You like our music. You always show great hospitality to representatives of our arts.

Spiritually we are very close. But fate has often tested the good feelings of our two peoples and we found ourselves in situations which darkened relations between the two nations.

Paying respect to the memory of those killed on both sides in wars and expressing condolences to the families of the prisoners of war who died far from their homeland we say: We must do everything never to let the scourge of hostility to befall our countries and people.

On the threshold of a new century and millennium we have to take from the past only that which enriches our lives and makes us closer to each other.

Now we share such common values as respect for human rights and freedoms, desire for national conciliation and democratic order, for peace and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Now, when the Cold War is over, it's high time to open our hearts to each other and work freely hand in hand building a new structure of mutual trust and good neighbourliness.

Our visit has just begun. There is still much to be done. We hope to deepen the dialogue which will help us understand each other better and move towards this purpose together.

We are fortunate to have arrived here when the Sakura trees are in full blossom. This reminds us of our flowering cherry gardens which our people have always considered to be a symbol of beauty, harmony, pacification and happiness. We shall take back home the beautiful image of Japan in the white and pink mist of Sakura.

Let me express my hope that the name of the era of your majesties' reign - "Heisei" which means "Coming of Peace" - chosen undoubtedly with a view to the future will come true in relations between the Soviet Union and Japan.

On behalf of my people also known for their hospitality I invite your majesties to visit our country at a convenient time.

To the health of Your Majesties, to the prosperity of the Japanese people!

To good neighbourly Soviet-Japanese relations!

Emperor Speaks at Banquet

OW1604132391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 (KYODO)—The following is a full text of Emperor Akihito's speech at a banquet at the Imperial Palace on Tuesday. (This was a translation by the Foreign Ministry).

I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to Your Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, who is now visiting our country together with Mrs. Gorbachev. This visit by Your Excellency is a historic one, being the first by the head of state of your country, and is truly significant for the promotion of friendship between our two nations. It gives me great pleasure to be able to have the presence of your Excellency and Mrs. Gorbachev at this banquet.

Our two countries are neighbors with a long history of exchange. Ever since our country emerged from its seclusion to join the modern community of nations, your country has consistently been one of the most important to Japan. In the meantime, relations between our two countries have become increasingly rich and broad in a wide range of areas, including commerce and culture.

There were times accompanied by pain and sadness in the relations between our two countries. But now, I feel very happy that there is growing enthusiasm in every segment of both countries for deepening mutual understanding and trust and building up a new neighborly relationship.

Your Excellency is the first president of the Soviet Union, has taken leadership in a wide range of reforms in your country, and has made a variety of contributions to the peace and stability of the world. [sentence as received] It is my earnest hope that Your Excellency's current visit will mark a historic turning point in establishing truly stable ties of friendship between our two countries.

Today, humankind is continuing efforts involving many hardships to find a way of creating a peaceful world free of war. At this time, I eagerly wish for the peoples of our two countries to forge an even broader and stronger relationship of trust and contribute jointly to the peace and prosperity of the world and the happiness of all peoples.

I understand that in addition to meetings with government and other leaders of Japan, Your Excellency's itinerary calls for a trip outside of Tokyo and an opportunity to come into contact with the traditional culture of Japan. At present we are in the midst of spring, a lovely season when life begins anew. I wholeheartedly hope that Your Excellency the President and Mrs. Gorbachev will find your visit to this country fruitful and enjoyable.

I now wish to raise my glass to the health and happiness of Your Excellency the President and Mrs. Gorbachev and to the prosperity of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Rightists March for Return of Northern Islands

OW1604124191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Some 2,500 rightists rallied and marched in central Tokyo on Tuesday calling for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to return Soviet-held islands off northern Japan.

The rally, cosponsored by 150 right-wing groups, was held at Hibiya Park, near the Imperial Palace where Gorbachev and his wife Raisa had earlier met with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Organizers said it was the largest rally by right-wing groups since World War II. The participating groups included members of the Conference of All-Japan Patriotic Organizations (Zenaikaigi), an umbrella organization with 360 different sub-groups and Japan's largest right-wing association.

Repeating their slogan, "Retake the Northern Islands," representatives from the groups said that it was high time the Japanese people banded together to secure the return of the country's "northern territories."

"We won't permit the Japanese Government to make a deal with the Soviet Union over the territorial dispute," Shin Yamaguchi, chairman of the rally committee, said in an address to the gathering.

Yamaguchi said Gorbachev is visiting Japan in an attempt to get economic assistance from Japan, not to return the islands.

In another speech, Takehiko Nakamura referred to Gorbachev's visit to the Soviet far east city of Khabaovsk to pay homage to deceased Japanese prisoners of war, and said, "we must not be taken in by his seeming diplomacy because they have never touched upon the issue for 46 years."

The participants approved a resolution to the effect that they would oppose Japan's economic assistance to the Soviet Union and the conclusion of a peace treaty if Moscow does not at the very least promise the immediate return of all four northern islands.

After the 90-minute rally, they marched in the streets of Tokyo shouting for the return of the islands and demanding that Gorbachev apologize for the detention of 600,000 Japanese prisoners of war after World War II.

Holding hundreds of banners, placards, and Japanese national flags, they were accompanied by ear-splitting loudspeaker trucks.

There were no reports of violence during the rally or the protest march.

Other Issues

Banker Expresses Caution on Loans to USSR

OW1504131791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan showed a cautious attitude Monday on the question of Japanese financial cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Mitsuhide Yamaguchi, president of the government-financed bank, shared the government's view in regard to extending loans to Moscow to help ease its tottering economy, but said the bank will speed up its review of a Soviet request for food aid.

"We share the government's view on economic cooperation loans to the Soviet Union, that is, Japan would not provide such loans," he said.

Yamaguchi said he has not been informed of a reported plan by the government to provide a loan of about 400 million dollars to the Soviet Union to help Moscow repay its trade debts with Japan.

It is necessary for a financial institution to ascertain whether the fund can be collected smoothly, he said.

As for food aid to the Soviet Union, Yamaguchi said the bank will review a list of requested items as soon as possible but added it would be difficult to make a decision while Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is in Tokyo on a four-day official visit, which starts on Tuesday.

The fund will be used by the Soviet Government to import necessary food and medical supplies.

Legal Officials Agree To Promote Exchanges

OW1604053291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Japan's Justice Minister Megumu Sato and Andrey Trebkov, president of the Union of Lawyers of the Soviet Union, agreed Tuesday to promote exchanges between their countries' legal fraternities, ministry officials said.

Trebkov, visiting Japan as part of the entourage accompanying President Mikhail Gorbachev who arrived Tuesday, suggested personnel exchanges to help the Soviet Union make the transition to a market economy, with Soviet lawyers learning Japanese know-how, the officials said.

In their 30-minute meeting at the Justice Ministry, Sato welcomed Trebkov's proposal and pledged to keep discussing ways of cooperation.

Judicial officials said the meeting is the first encounter ever between the legal leaders of the two countries.

Sato noted the necessity of deeper understanding among the legal servants of both nations as the Soviet Union starts to substantially commit themselves to trade and commercial activities with Japan, increasing the need for legal dealings between the two countries, the officials said.

Government Disbands Gulf Crisis Headquarters

OW1604040291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—The Government decided Tuesday to disband its Persian Gulf crisis countermeasure headquarters following the UN Security Council's declaration of a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf region and establish a separate headquarters aimed at assisting Kurdish refugees and reconstruction in the region.

The government made the decision at a Security Council meeting and a regular cabinet session.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the cabinet meeting that the Persian Gulf war raised serious questions concerning the course that Japan should take in future and added that the anticipated purposes of the countermeasure headquarters have been achieved.

Kaifu also said the government will abolish a provisional ordinance introduced in January which allows Japan to dispatch Self- Defense Forces (SDF) transport aircraft to evacuate refugees fleeing from the war-torn Gulf region, giving as the reason that no requests would be forthcoming from international agencies for such missions.

The government plans to formalise the decision at a regular cabinet session on Friday, Defense Agency Director General Yukihiko Ikeda told reporters.

The government issued the ordinance as part of Japan's program of contributions to the multinational effort in the region, along with additional financial support of 9 billion dollars.

Takeshita Urges IMF To Aid Gulf Nations

OW1604043191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Tuesday Japan and other industrialized nations should take special action to help countries in the Persian Gulf reconstruct their economies, using the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

Takeshita made the statement in a lecture given at a Tokyo hotel. The time has come, he said, for the IMF to supply SDRs, known as intangible assets, to meet growing capital demands to help the economies of countries in the Persian Gulf and Eastern Europe on the road to recovery.

SDRs, introduced in 1970 as a substitute for gold in international payments, are allocated to IMF members in proportion to their quotas. The SDR's value is based on the currencies of the five largest exporters (currently the U.S., Germany, Japan, Britain, and France).

Takeshita said that the industrialized nations should provide economic aid to countries in the Middle East, including Kuwait, just as the U.S. supplied financial aid to spur Japan to a quick economic recovery after World War II.

Study of Minesweeper Mission Ordered

OW1604113091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Makoto Sakuma, Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) chief of staff, said Tuesday that the Defense Agency has asked him to prepare an outline of the logistical requirements for sending minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

Sakuma told a press conference that Defense Agency Director General Yukihiko Ikeda made the request.

The government is expected to decide whether to send minesweepers to the Gulf early next week, following the mayoral and local assembly elections on Sunday, government sources said.

Sakuma said the MSDF will consider formation of a minesweeper squadron, equipment needs, and compile specific information on floating mines in the Gulf.

Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) are drawing up contingency plans for sending four minesweepers along with a support ship and supply vessel. The combined crew would total 500, Defense Agency sources said.

There reportedly are some 1,000 mines afloat in the Gulf. So far six nations—the United States, Britain, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France, and the Netherlands—have sent minesweepers to the area.

Defense Agency officials said it will take about one month for a minesweeper squadron to reach the Gulf. The officials said they hope the ships can be dispatched before June, when the monsoon season on the Indian Ocean begins.

The government attempted to pass legislation last fall that would have allowed Japan to send noncombat SDF personnel abroad in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

But the initiative was abandoned after concerns were raised by the opposition that it would violate the Constitution, which bans the country from using force as a means of settling international disputes.

Arabian Oil Co., a Japanese company producing oil in the Gulf near Kuwait, has asked the Japanese Government to join other nations in the Gulf cleanup, government sources said. The company says none of the minesweepers currently assigned to the Gulf is clearing mines near its loading facility in Khafji.

MITI Minister Indicates End of RSA Sanctions

OW1604034491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao said Tuesday that Japan is likely to lift sanctions on imports from South Africa [Republic of South Africa—RSA] in recognition of Pretoria's moves to dismantle its apartheid policy.

Nakao told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting that with South Africa's political reforms proceeding rapidly, the Government will consider the lifting of sanctions, while monitoring that country's release of political prisoners, the progress in scrapping discriminatory laws, as well as the actions of the European Community (EC) and the United States.

Nakao's remarks came after the EC decided at a meeting of its foreign ministers on Monday to scrap its remaining sanctions on imports of iron, steel, and gold coins from South Africa.

Japan's sanctions on imports of pig iron, rolled steel, gold coins, and several other products, have been in place since 1986, as have those of the EC and the U.S.

In 1987, Japan overtook the U.S. as South Africa's biggest trading partner, and is currently second after Germany in trade with the white-minority-ruled country.

North Korea

South Students Protest Coming Gorbachev Visit

SK1604063091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—South Korean students are struggling against South Korean visit by Soviet President Gorbachev due on April 19, according to a foreign press report from Seoul.

Some 1,000 students of the University of Foreign Studies in Seoul held a meeting and demonstration on April 12.

At the meeting they shouted "We oppose Gorbachev's visit helpful to unilateral entry into the United Nations," charging that No Tae-u is resorting to "mendicant diplomacy" to get the support of the Soviet Union to South Korea's "unilateral entry into the United Nations."

They said that the unilateral U.N. membership would fix the partition of the nation.

They threw fire bottles at the police firing tear gas to block them.

Earlier, on April 11 leading students of scores of universities in South Korea gathered at Yonsei University and declared a campaign against Gorbachev's visit to South Korea.

One of them said to a foreign reporter: "Our protests are mainly to overthrow No Tae-u and drive out Yankees, but at the same time, we will wage a demonstration against Gorbachev's visit."

Regarding his visit, opposition parties and dissidents of South Korea charged that No Tae-u is conducting "mendicant diplomacy."

Chondoist Vice Chairman Meets South Politician

SK1404095991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—Han Yong-su, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist

Chongu Party, on April 13 met and had a talk with Kim Hui-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon Provincial District Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party."

They exchanged views on a series of matters related to national reunification.

Vice-Chairman Han Yong-su spoke highly of Mr. Kim Hui-won who rose in the righteous struggle to make the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons, the chief obstacle to national reunification, withdraw from South Korea.

On the reunification question Kim Hwu-won said:

At present, "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises are being staged maliciously in South Korea. These military manoeuvres are nuclear war exercises against the North from A to Z.

I thought that if such danger of war is to be removed, the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons should be pulled out of South Korea, and decided to rise in the struggle to this end before visiting Pyongyang.

In the North foreign troops could not be seen at all and People's Army soldiers are mobilised in peaceful construction. But the person in power in the South is whipping up fever for northward invasion with the mobilisation of even "reserve forces", raising a hue and cry over "threat from the North".

Reunification can never be achieved as long as there remain the U.S. imperialists who have battened with sanguinary massacres and No Tae-u, a fascist maniac.

I think that only when all the people in the South rise in struggle is it possible to drive out the U.S. forces and achieve reunification.

He requested the Chondoist Chongu Party to actively help him in his efforts for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea and national reunification.

Commentary, Reaction to South, U.S.' Remarks

KPA Deputy Chief Comments

SK1604052191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0403 GMT 16 Apr 91

["Bellicose Outbursts of U.S. Imperialists and South Korean Puppets Condemned by Deputy Chief of General Staff of KPA"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Chon Chae-son issued a talk to the press today denouncing the bellicose outburst let out by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets against the northern half of Korea.

He says:

A very grave situation has now been created on the Korean peninsula in which a war may break out any moment due to the new war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

South Korean puppet defence minister Yi Chong-ku on April 12 appeared on the rostrum of the "editors' council" at which he let out a warlike outburst threatening the North, raising a hue and cry over the "possibility of war on the Korean peninsula" and "threat from the North".

This timed to coincide with the publication of an annual report on the assessment of military potentials by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In it the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the Korean peninsula is the region fraught with the biggest danger of the outbreak of a local war after the Gulf and openly declared that in case a war breaks out in Korea, fierce battles of more than 120 days at least would be inevitable and the United States would hurl reinforcements 200,000 strong.

Those bellicose utterances that came simultaneously from Washington and Seoul were a premeditated and dangerous warlike outburst aimed at breaking up the dialogue by deliberately aggravating North-South relations, rendering the situation on the Korean peninsula more strained and leading it to the brink of war. This shows that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are, in actuality, seeking only confrontation and war though they talk loudly about "peace" in Korea, "unification" and "dialogue."

Facts show that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have never taken steps for the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula, but, on the contrary, have steadily increased tensions, stepping up war preparations to attack us behind the scene of North-South dialogue under the pretext of fictitious "threat from the North". They are now persistently resorting to a strategy for a pre-emptive attack at the northern half of Korea.

There are in South Korea U.S. troops nearly 50,000 strong, the puppet army more than one million strong and paramilitary forces of over 10 million men including the "homeland defence reserve forces" more than 4.5 million strong and the "civilian defence corps" over 4.3 million strong and mass destruction weapons including above 1,000 nuclear warheads.

These huge aggression forces pose a constant threat to us.

The United States, far from pulling its aggressor troops out of South Korea, continues modernising its forces present in South Korea by massively shipping in latest types of military equipment.

They plan to newly deploy latest-type anti-tank helicopters AH-64 and RPV remote control unmanned planes there.

The U.S. imperialists blare that they would also continue military aid for the "modernisation" of the puppet army.

They intend to transfer to the puppets 80 to 100 Blackhawk attack helicopters and more than 120 F-16, fighter-bombers of latest type worth 500 million U.S. dollars.

While building up armed forces, they are whipping up a war atmosphere, staging military exercises against the northern half of Korea almost every day under various codenames.

And it has staged every year the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war and a preliminary war, with the mobilization of vast forces from the U.S. mainland and Pacific bases and hysterically stage large-scale war games such as the "Ulji Focus Lens" joint command staff exercise, the "Eagle" joint guerrilla fighting exercise and the "Ssangnyong" joint landing operation.

By April 12 this year as many as 62,245 warplanes including nuclear-capable strategic bombers B 52 were flown in the sky above South Korea.

On the other hand, the United States maliciously conducts aerial espionage on the northern half of Korea.

A total of over 540 times of aerial espionage on our side were conducted in the first three months of this year with the mobilization of various types of reconnaissance planes such as E-3A AWACS [Airborne Warning and Control System] and U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets ceaselessly commit military provocations and hostile acts on the East and West coasts of our country and in the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL].

In twenty days following the announcement of the plan of the "Team Spirit 91" joint maneuvers, they committed more than 1,500 cases of military provocations against our side including rifle and gun firing toward our side in the areas along the MDL.

All these provocative moves on their part which have been intensified as never before clearly show that the danger of war in our country is coming from the South to the North.

This notwithstanding, the enemies are raising outcries over the "threat from the North", reversing truth. This is nothing but a sophism to justify the U.S. imperialists' permanent occupation of South Korea.

It is also a foolish artifice to divert elsewhere the attention of the South Korean people who have risen up in the anti-U.S. struggle for independence and anti-fascist struggle for democracy and the struggle for national reunification and maintain the system of colonial fascist rule which is in a crisis.

We are sharply watching with high vigilance the aggressive moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets behind the specious curtain of dialogue.

We do not want war, but are never afraid of it. If the aggressors dare provoke a war, our people and soldiers of the Korean People's Army united steel-like around our party will fight courageously to defend the socialist motherland of chuche with their own lives.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must act with discretion, not running about recklessly, captive to anachronic illusion.

Remarks Labeled 'Absurd'

SK1604101691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0552 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Actual Declaration of War Against Us"]

[Text] Because of provocative war maneuvers of the South Korean puppets, an extremely grave touch-and-go situation has been created on the Korean peninsula.

As has already been reported, the puppet defense minister raved about someone else's expansion of military power in a meeting with South Korean newspaper editors on 12 April. He also made bellicose and absurd remarks about launching a surprise attack and destruction of nuclear facilities in the North by mobilizing special forces.

This is an undisguised actual declaration of war against us, and an intolerable antinational crime which brings North-South dialogue into the verge of rupture and gravely blocks the path to peaceful reunification.

As is known to all, the South Korean puppets have persistently accelerated preparations for northward war of aggression under the instigation of the U.S. imperialists.

They increased the puppet troops nearly to 1 million and reduced South Korea into the largest nuclear advance base in the Far East and into a touch-and-ignite powderkeg, where more than 1,000 various nuclear weapons are deployed. They constantly brought most modern war equipment into South Korea.

Furthermore, the South Korean puppets declared a wartime system throughout South Korea and put the puppet armed forces and militia units under combat posture. Thus, they have mobilized all resources of manpower and materials in implementing their war policy.

The provocative Team Spirit '91 joint military exercise which began in the end of January is being staged even now on the very dangerous stage.

The violent remarks on war by the puppet defense minister proved that the preparations for a northward war of aggression which the rascals accelerated up to present are now completed, and that the rascals are going to put them into practice.

Since their attempt for northward invasion has been exposed to the world with absurd remarks of the defense minister and such an attempt faced with fierce rejection by opposition parties and the people from all walks of life, the puppets are talking about a slip of the tongue, cancellation of remarks and so forth in an attempt to bring the situation under control.

However, with such petty guile, they cannot conceal their attempt for a surprise attack on us, which was already exposed to the world, nor can they appease public opinion at home and abroad.

The absurd and bellicose remarks of a puppet defense minister are not a slip of the tongue at all nor are they the intent of a certain individual. How can the remarks made by a plain cabinet minister and in particular, the remarks made in an official meeting, not a private gathering, be called a slip of the tongue? How can the remarks presented to the public be canceled?

The rascal's remarks clearly show that the puppets have already conspired to launch a surprise attack on our nuclear reactor facilities [wonjaro sisol] and with this as an occasion, they have worked out specific operational plans for provocation of all-out war. His remarks this time only mean a public announcement.

Since the South Korean puppets are the colonial stooges and war servants of the U.S. imperialists, they are not in the position of freely making such remarks. The puppets' absurd remarks represent the U.S. imperialists' attempt for northward invasion.

It is no secret that the U.S. imperialists have worked out the plan of northward war of aggression together with the puppets and are watching for a chance to put this plan into practice.

In an annual report on the assessment of military potentials, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the Korean peninsula is the region fraught with the biggest danger of the outbreak of a local war after the Gulf and openly declared that in case a war breaks out in Korea, fierce battles of more than 120 days at least would be inevitable and the United States would hurl reinforcements of 200,000 strong.

The plan of the puppets to launch a surprise attack on our nuclear reactor facilities is precisely the U.S. imperialists' plan of war. Such a plan by the puppets is made according to the U.S. imperialists' scenario.

Under the U.S. imperialists' instigation, the puppets have revealed their attempt for a northward war of aggression not once or twice but many times. However, there has been no time before like this time when they openly stated that they will launch a surprise attack.

The puppet defense minister's remarks are of a particularly grave nature. When his remarks are put into action, the situation will develop into an all-out war, and our people will suffer irrevocable disasters. In addition, peace in Asia and in the world will be gravely threatened.

We have repeatedly clarified that we have neither the will nor ability to develop nuclear weapons. This notwithstanding, the puppets are raving about surprise attack and so forth by giving rise to public discussion of our nonexistent [issjido anhun] nuclear facilities. This is merely an excuse for provoking an all-out war against our Republic, and rather exposes more undisguisedly their bellicose nature.

Our people absolutely will not tolerate the puppets' reckless new war provocation maneuvers. The No Tae-u group will be held totally responsible for all consequences arising from its new war provocation maneuvers. The No Tae-u group should not run about recklessly.

More on ROK Minister's Comments

SK1604095691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0051 GMT 16 Apr 91

[NODONG SINMUN 16 April commentary: "A War Maniac's Intolerable Outburst on War"]

[Text] While addressing the South Korean news media editors on 12 April, the person holding the office of the Defense Minister of South Korea uttered provocative remarks that he would send commandos into the North to make a surprise attack on its nuclear reactor facilities, thereby arousing deep concern and indignation among all the Korean fellow countrymen in the North, South, and abroad and among the world's peace-loving people.

The bellicose outburst by the South Korean puppet military boss who openly threatened to strike at the nuclear reactor facilities in the North in a surprise attack is an unpardonable military provocation against the North, which is doing its best to preserve a durable peace on the Korean peninsula, and create preconditions for peaceful reunification. This outburst is an intolerably vicious challenge to the entire fellow countrymen who have turned out as one across the country to reunify the country before the nineties are out.

It is clear what would happen if the outbursts and outrageous language by the South Korean military authorities who are instigated by the bellicose elements of the U.S. imperialists are translated into action. If that would happen, it would inevitably develop into an all-out war, and our nation would plunge into the scourge of war and suffer irrevocable catastrophic damages. Peace in Asia and the world at large would be exposed to grave danger.

The puppet South Korean defense minister's bellicose outburst constitutes an extremely undisguised form of a declaration of repudiating dialogue, a declaration of negating peaceful reunification, and a virtual declaration of war on us.

We bitterly denounce the bellicose outburst of the South Korean military boss, branding it as a never-to-be-condoned anti-national crime of breaking up the North-South dialogue, disturbing peace on the Korean peninsula, standing in the way of peaceful reunification, and bringing dark clouds of war.

With the bellicose outburst, the No Tae-u ring has revealed its own filthy nature as a group of antinational, treacherous criminals who seek reunification by prevailing over communism by force of arms, taking no notice of the nation or future of their offspring.

It has now become clearer why the South Korean authorities adamantly refused to accept our proposal for adopting a nonaggression declaration at last year's North-South high-level talks, and why they have pushed the situation to the brink of war by conducting, once again, the Team

Spirit '91 joint military exercise this year with the U.S. imperialists, ignoring our repeated proposals and magnanimous, persuasive advice.

It is also nothing but a deceptive act to camouflage their bellicose nature that the South Korean puppets have called for the resumption of the North-South high-level talks and the North-South Red Cross talks all the while they were conducting Team Spirit '91 joint military exercise.

It is only too natural that the opposition parties and people of various strata of South Korea strongly demand an immediate dismissal of the puppet Defense Minister, denouncing his bellicose outburst as a grave threat of war that means a total denial of the North-South dialogue and leads the country's situation to the dangerous brink of war.

Stung and surprised by the fact that their bellicose outburst has generated waves of indignation at home and abroad, the No Tae-u ring has tried to bring the situation under control by arguing that the military authorities' remarks had been negated or that it was a slip of the tongue. However, it is too late to camouflage their revealed intentions to provoke a war.

It is widely known that the United States, which has become more arrogant in the wake of the recent collapse in the balance of power in the international theater and has become the captive of megalomania after the war in the Persian Gulf, is now about to provoke a full-scale war against our Republic. It is making an issue of our nonexistent nuclear facilities out of a miscalculation that its policy of strength will also prevail in Korea.

It is no secret that following the end of the war in the Gulf the U.S. imperialists, while babbling that the Korean peninsula is the most dangerous region where war can break out, have already developed a war scenario in anticipation of a war in Korea. According to this, the No Tae-u ring has already mapped out a detailed operational plan for making a surprise attack on the nuclear reactor facilities in the North.

The U.S. imperialists' aggressive nature and policy of strength have never changed but have become more highhanded. The flunkeyist treacheries of the No Tae-u group, which is living the remaining days as a war servant of the United States, are becoming more vicious with each passing day. These developments imply that the U.S. imperialist aggressors, swollen-hearted after the recent changes in international relations, plan to ignite another war of aggression in Korea and that the No Tae-u group denounced and rejected by the people and driven to a tight corner may try to find a way out by provoking a war against us.

With today's grave reality, the removal of the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and the assurance of peace there are the most pressing issues and are a matter of life and death for our people.

Our people who value national dignity and sovereignty and love peace can never tolerate the war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group to turn the lands of the fatherland into a heap of ruins and plunge all the fellow countrymen into the tragic misfortune of war under any circumstances. As long as the U.S. occupation forces and nuclear weapons remain in South Korea and those who are in a hopeless quagmire make hysteric acts, nobody can be sure when the fuse of war will be lighted in our country.

For peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and peace in Asia and the world at large, the criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group to provoke war should be resolutely frustrated. The South Korean bellicose elements who are running riot indiscreetly at the instigation of U.S. imperialists should be removed without delay.

With a clear realization of the dangerous situation prevailing in the country, people from all walks of life in South Korea should stage an anti-U.S., antiwar, and antinuclear struggle more vigorously in order to keep war from breaking out. They should do this to defend peace, hasten the day of reunification, struggle to oust No Tae-u's Democratic Liberal Party regime, which is the perpetrator of war serving the U.S. imperialists, and set up an independent democratic regime more vigorously.

It is the firm, unwavering will of our people to remove the danger of war in Korea, preserve and consolidate peace there, and realize the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

We will smash in a timely manner the aggressors' provocative maneuvers of any kind by raising our revolutionary vigilance against the U.S. imperialists' and the South Korean puppets' maneuvers to provoke a new war. We will defend the socialist fatherland and the revolutionary gains, and achieve the cause of national reunification, without fail, based on the united patriotic strength of the North and South.

Kim Il-song Gives Luncheon for Norodom Sihanouk

SK1204105991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 12 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today met Cambodian president His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Present on the occasion were Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-premier Kim Pok-sin, vice-premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol and vice-minister of foreign affairs Cho Kyu-il.

The entourage of His Royal Highness Samdech and Cambodian Ambassador e. p. to Korea Son Chhum were also on hand.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk warmly congratulated president Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him good health and longevity.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a warm and friendly conversation with him.

Then, he saw together with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk a feature film "O, My Dear Cambodia, I Cannot See You Again" made by the Samdech.

President Kim Il-song received a gift from His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and presented a gift to him.

He gave a luncheon for the Samdech.

The luncheon proceeded in a warm atmosphere.

Meets With Sihanouk 16 Apr

SK1604111691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea met today with his Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia, who paid a congratulatory call on him.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President Yi Chong-ok and the entourage of His Royal Highness Samdech.

His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk presented a basket of flowers to President Kim Il-song on his 79th birthday and wished him good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a cordial and friendly conversation with His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Kim Il-song Meets Nepal Government Delegation

SK1504091491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0617 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song Sunday received the visiting Nepalese Government delegation headed by Minister of Education and Culture Keshar Jung Rayamajhi.

Present on the occasion were Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister, and Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The head of the delegation handed to President Kim Il-song a personal better of his Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and a personal letter of Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, prime minister of the government of the Kingdom of Nepal.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He was presented with a gift by the head of the delegation.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Syrian President

SK1604105491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the independence of the country.

The message said:

After the independence the Syrian Arab people have made great progress in the work to defend the sovereignty of the country, develop the national economy and build a new society.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish the Syrian Arab people greater success in the endeavours to strengthen national unity, retake the occupied Arab land and achieve the territorial integrity of the country under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by you.

I believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will daily expand and develop.

Celebration of Kim Il-song's Birthday Continues

Chongnyon Celebrates Birthday

SK1604104391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—A central meeting of Koreans in Japan was held in Tokyo on April 13 in celebration of the birthday of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song, according to a KNS [Korea News Service] report from Tokyo.

Yi Chin-kyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), in his speech at the meeting said that officials of Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan are celebrating the holiday of April this year with great national pride and honor in holding the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song in high esteem, witnessing and experiencing events of epochal significance in adding lustre to the homeland of chuche and accelerating national reunification.

A great progress of opening a new chapter has been made in our nation's cause of reunification under the wise guidance of the great leader and a new history has been opened in the relations between the DPRK and Japan, he said, and continued:

This gives the compatriots in Japan a high pride of being overseas citizens of the homeland of chuche. The greatness of the socialist homeland of chuche is the greatness of the chuche idea founded by the great leader and the dignity of our homeland is precisely the high prestige of the leader.

The world people are praising that our people are advancing holding the sagacious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the heir to the cause of chuche. A congratulatory message of the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon to Marshal Kim Il-song was read out at the meeting.

The Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon gave a party in Tokyo on April 12 on the occasion of the birthday of Marshal Kim Il-song.

Chongnyon Sends Birthday Message

SK1504104091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1003 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader Marshal Kim Il-song today received a congratulatory message from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on his birthday.

The outstanding leadership of Marshal Kim Il-song in unfolding the annals of a new victory of the cause of chuche in the turbulent internal and external situation at present strikes the world people with unbounded admiration, the message says, and continues:

The brilliant reality of the homeland of chuche unswervingly building socialism of our style, smashing the vicious antisocialist, anti-DPRK moves of the allied imperialist reactionary forces with the invincible might of singlehearted unity, is evoking the loud admiring voices that a great leader and a great party produce a great country and great people from among the world people.

In the boundlessly broad bosom of Marshal Kim Il-song, the entire fellow countrymen in the North and the South and abroad have vigorously grown up to be the driving force of the reunification under the banner of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, and under the wise leadership and the great loving care of the leader, Koreans in Japan are adding shine to the worthiest life through generations on the road of noble patriotism as overseas citizens of the full-fledged sovereign state.

The message stresses the need to build the organisation of Chongnyon as an unbreakable patriotic one which is singleheartedly united on the basis of the chuche idea and has struck deep roots among the masses of compatriots.

In the message the Central Standing Committee of Chongryon wishes good health and long life to Marshal Kim Il-song.

Editorials Commemorate Birthday

SK1504105091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1008 GMT 15 Apr 91

["Let Us Vigorously Advance Along the Road of Socialism, Rallied Around the Party and the Leader More Closely"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—Today is the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the auspicious holiday.

In this connection, all the dailies here today carry editorials.

In an editorial titled "Let Us Vigorously Advance Along the Road of Socialism, Rallied Around the Party and the Leader More Closely" NODONG SINMUN says:

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader peerless in our nations' history spanning thousands of years and the great father who is successfully shaping the destiny of our country and nation.

The history of his revolutionary activities is the history of a great strategist and a genius of creation and construction who works world-startling miracles and feats by pioneering and leading the cause of true socialism for the independence of the masses of working people, an epic of the struggle of a legendary hero who has emerged ever-victorious in the struggle with the enemies against progress and socialism and the history of a most veteran leader who has achieved a solid singlehearted unity never known in the history of the working-class revolutionary movement and, with this might, is confidently moving up the future of bright communism.

For the history our people's cause of socialism has steadily advanced and emerged ever-victorious without the slightest turns and twists and reached a high stage of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea.

Looking back upon the past days, we feel great pride and honor in having overcome difficulties by ourselves with a singlehearted unity around the party and the leader and advanced our cause of socialism triumphantly under whatever difficult circumstances.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

"Because the party and the popular masses became one unbreakable body, we succeeded in carrying out the difficult and complex tasks of building a new democratic Korea after liberation, were able to withstand the harsh trials of the Fatherland Liberation War, heal the war wounds from the ashes through a hard-fought struggle in the short period of postwar years and build an excellent, powerful socialist country which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in defence."

The singlehearted unity is the greatest historical gain of our revolution and the biggest wealth of the wealths for the victory of the cause of socialism and the future of the nation.

On this basis, the revolution is advancing forcefully in the land of the motherland and a great heyday of the era of the Workers' Party, the era of national prosperity, has opened.

The editorial says that our singlehearted unity firmly guarantees the victory of our socialism because it makes it possible to resolutely defend the chuhe idea and ensure the uniformity and continuity of leadership.

The future of our party and people that are united in one mind is extending endlessly and the cause of socialism will bring greater glory and happiness to our people, the editorial adds.

National Children's Union Meeting

SK1604054191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0429 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—A grand joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union was held at the May Day Stadium on April 15 to mark the birthday of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song.

Present at the meeting were Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers'

Party of Korea and vice-president, Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK [Worker's Party Korea] Central Committee, and other officials concerned.

A function of the Korean Children's Union took place at the meeting.

As clarion call was sound, KCU members on an open limousine entered into the meeting place, upholding the portrait flag of the respected father Marshal Kim Il-song and the flag of the glorious Workers' Party of Korea.

Then, the chairman of the joint national organisation of the KCU made a report.

A congratulatory message carrying the unanimous loyalty of the entire children's union members on the birthday of Marshal Kim Il-song was read out.

In the message, children's union members stressed that the birthday of Marshal Kim Il-song was the birth of a new Korea and a new world.

Recalling with a high pride that children are growing healthy in the boundlessly warm bosom of the father marshal as the "king" of the country, the message pointed out:

Our brilliant country of chuche is the best and our motherly party is also best in the world.

A ceremony of admission of children to the KCU took place.

The children admitted to the KCU took the oath of admission led by an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter Kim Yong-yon.

Then, Kim Ok-sun, an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter, made a congratalatory speech.

KCNA Review of 13 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1304053091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea met Cambodian President His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Printed in papers is a message to Zambian President Kenneth David Kaunda sent by President Kim Il-song in reply to his solidarity message supporting the DPRK's proposal for national reunification.

Papers devote much space to an account of the second-day sitting of the Second Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and speeches of deputies on the state budget.

NODONG SINMUN runs a political essay on the good fortune of Korea in being guided by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

MINJU CHOSON introduces revolutionary slogans praising President Kim Il-song written during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that Cuban mass media published articles and functions were held in the Soviet Union, Sweden and Mozambique to mark the birthday of President Kim Il-song.

Under the title "Mangyongdae—Cradleland of the Korean and the World Revolution" the paper conveys foreign public voices.

Papers report that the Chinhung Joint-Venture Company was commissioned in Sariwon, the Musan Mining Complex is increasing the production of iron headings and many minor power stations are being built in South Pyongan Province.

Papers carry photo-illustrated accounts of the Ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival going on here.

Seen in papers is an account of the sojourn in Japan of the delegation of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

The Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front invited and had a talk with Kim Hwi-won, former chairman of a South Korean Kangwon Provincial District Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party," says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper informs the readers of the opening ceremony of the international short course for journalists held in Pyongyang.

It is reported in the paper that an international signature campaign for a peaceful reunification of Korea is brisk and 20 political parties and public organizations of Pakistan issued a statement denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers.

The paper observes the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the State of Palestine.

It informs the readers that the World Federation of Democratic Youth and youth organizations of different countries participated in the signature campaign demanding the release of woman student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon.

It reports that Premier of the State Council of China Li Peng elaborated on domestic and international issues, an international conference on Namibia was held in Windhoek and economic confusion has been created by coal miners' strike in the Soviet Union.

KCNA Review of 15 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1504073091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0626 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON carry editorials on the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song under respective titles "Let Us Vigorously Advance Along the Road of Socialism, Rallied Around the Party and the Leader More Closely" and "Let Us Powerfully Step Up Socialist Construction Upholding the Guidance of the Party and the Leader With Loyalty".

Printed in the papers is a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il-song received congratulatory groups of overseas Koreans.

The press gives an account of a banquet arranged by President Kim Il-song in honor of congratulatory groups and delegations of overseas Koreans. The press carries speeches made by Vice-President Pak Song-chol and chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan Han Tok-su at the banquet.

Carried in the press is a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il-song received a Nepalese Government delegation.

Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a basket of flowers and congratulations from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chinese leaders, baskets of flowers and congratulatory letters from the diplomatic corps in Pyongyang and the president of the State of Palestine and a gift from the former chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria, says the press.

Printed in the press are congratulatory messages to President Kim Il-song from the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front and the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon on his 79th birthday.

The press informs the readers that Comrade Fidel Castro participated in a banquet given at the DPRK Embassy in Cuba on the birthday of President Kim Il-song and functions took place in different countries.

Echoed in MINJU CHOSON are voices of South Korean people wishing President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

The press reports that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the head of the Nepalese Government delegation.

According to NODONG SINMUN, the Burundi paper "NDANGABE" [name as received] carried a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Papers inform the readers that the first-stage Pyongyang tramway project has been completed and partial test operation successfully took place, the development of the Pongnyon mine has been completed and it went into operation and a commissioning ceremony of smeltery No. 727 was held.

Papers carry photo-illustrated reports that joint performances of the 9th April Spring Friendship Art Festival were given.

Papers convey news that working people across the country are significantly greeting the April 15.

Carried in papers is a statement issued by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the outburst let out by the South Korean "defence minister" threatening to "throw commandoes into the North and surprise and destroy the atomic reactor facilities there".

MINJU CHOSON carries an article titled "Conception of East Asia Economic Group Draws Attention".

South Korea

China 'Urging' North To Sign Nuclear Agreement

SK1604055191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—China, at the request of the Soviet Union, is urging North Korea to sign up [as received] the safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a South Korean official said Tuesday.

"We are aware that China, at the request of the Soviet Union, is pushing North Korea to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards accord," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The Soviet Union has warned Pyongyang that it will cut off all supplies and cooperation unless the North allows inspection, a leading Soviet academic said Monday in Tokyo.

The Soviet efforts follow an agreement on North Korean nuclear capability reached between South Korean President No Tae-u and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in two rounds of talks last year.

"With these Soviet and Chinese efforts, North Korea will have to join the IAEA accord before long. If North Korea signs the accord and accepts international inspection, we will see the nuclear threat markedly decrease on the Korean peninsula," the official said.

North Korea joined the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in December 1985 but has not yet signed the safeguards accord, which a signatory has to do within 18 months.

The issue will be discussed in depth at the No-Gorbachev summit in South Korea Friday, he said.

Gorbachev Visit to Cheju Said Not 'Reciprocal'

SK1604055991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0310 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Kong No-myong, the South Korean ambassador to the Soviet Union, said Tuesday that the Korean and Soviet Governments both think President Mikhail Gorbachev should visit Seoul in addition to his summit talks Friday with President No Tae-u on Cheju Island.

Gorbachev's visit to Cheju cannot be seen as reciprocal for No's official visit to Moscow last December since it is a working visit, so Gorbachev may make an official trip to Seoul at an opportune time, Kong said.

"I still do not know the timing of his official visit to this country, but I think he will come to Seoul on a leg of his tour of several nations—if he comes," he said.

Kong, here to help with preparations for the Cheju summit, said he expected Gorbachev to make an official visit to South Korea "in the not-so-distant future."

The Soviets suggested an official visit to Seoul separate from the Cheju summit before deciding on Friday's stopover, he said.

It was the first time the Soviets had confirmed that they have halted supplies to North Korea of nuclear materials and the Korean Government will reconfirm such a Soviet position through diplomatic channels, Kong said.

North Korea's signing of IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] nuclear safeguards accord was discussed in the No-Gorbachev summit in Moscow last December and is one of the issues the South Korean Government is most concerned about.

Kong indicated it would be high on the agenda of the Cheju summit and said, "I expect progress will be made on it."

"The Soviet Government is showing a favorable and positive attitude to alleviating the sorrow of the bereaved families of the Korean victims (of KAL Flight 007)," he said.

"Informal contact is going on between the two governments to realize a visit by the bereaved families to Sakhalin for the 9th memorial ceremony and erection of a monument."

The Soviet Government did not ask for additional economic aid despite its deteriorating economic situation, but it hoped the 3 billion-U.S.-dollar aid package already offered would come through as soon as possible, he said.

Soviet Ambassador Arrives, Prepares for Summit

SK1604075691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 16 (YONHAP)—Soviet Ambassador Oleg Sokolov flew down to Cheju Island from Seoul on Tuesday afternoon to prepare for Friday's summit talks between Presidents No Tae-u and Mikhail Gorbachev.

A Soviet advance team arrives Wednesday from Japan to join him.

Gorbachev will stop over on this southernmost Korean island at around 7 P.M. for his third summit with No. The two presidents met twice last year, once before their nations normalized diplomatic relations and once after.

Gorbachev will be the first Soviet head of state to set foot in either the capitalist South or communist North of Korea.

Kwangju Students Protest Coming Gorbachev Visit

SK1504095591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0746 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Kwangju, South Korea, April 15 (YONHAP)—Nearly 100 students at Chonnam University in Kwangju, South Cholla Province, took to the streets Monday morning, handing out leaflets that protest Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Korea on his way home from Japan.

They also oppose South Korea joining the United Nations at a different time than North Korea.

"The reason Seoul is willing to have such a disgracefully short summit with Moscow of only three hours is that the two governments conspire for Korea's single entry into the world body. It will cool down the maturing unification enthusiasm on the Korean peninsula," the pamphlets said.

More Students Demonstrate

OW1604142691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 KYODO—More than 20 students staged a rally in Seoul on Tuesday against the scheduled visit to South Korea by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday, but they were quickly rounded up by riot police, authorities said.

The students from Hanyang University and Kon-kug University, shouting slogans opposing the Gorbachev visit, demonstrated on a road near the Soviet Trade Office in Seoul.

Gorbachev will visit Cheju, the southernmost South Korean island, for talks with South Korean President No Tae-u after ending his four-day historic visit to Japan which started Tuesday.

It was the first anti-Moscow street demonstration since South Korea normalized relations with the Soviet Union last September.

The demonstrating students distributed handbills saying the Cheju conference will not contribute to unification and peace on the Korean peninsula and will adversely affect the North-South dialogue.

Last Friday, some 1,000 students of the Hankuk Univerity of foreign studies demonstrated on their campus against Gorbachev's visit.

Seoul, Moscow To Erect KAL Victims Monument

SK1504015391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0130 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—The South Korean and Soviet Governments have agreed to erect a monument to the memory of the Koreans killed when a Soviet fighter shot down KAL flight 007 in 1983, Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The agreement is an effort to positively settle the delicate controversy between the two countries based on the judgment of the two governments that it is beneficial to them both to seek a solution using the summit Friday on Cheju Island as a turning point, he said.

Meeting with Korean Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha on April 4, Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, head of the Soviet delegation to a meeting of U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Seoul, said Moscow was willing to set up a monument to the memory of the Korean victims, said the official, who declined to be identified.

Rogachev also said Moscow would accept demands by the bereaved families to hold a memorial ceremony in September off Sakhalin Island, where KAL 007 was blown out of the sky.

The two sides have discussed the issue in detail through the diplomatic channels.

"The two governments are expected to officially announce the agreement in the foreign ministers' talks that are to be held separately during the Cheju summit," he said.

Another Foreign Ministry source said the two governments, through working-level consultations, have agreed in principle to erect the monument in Sakhalin City during the memorial ceremony in September.

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement To Be Signed

SK1404045691 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Korea and the Soviet Union will sign an accord to expand bilateral cooperation in promotion of the peaceful use of atomic energy this week in Seoul.

The agreement will be signed Tuesday between the Korea Atomic Industrial Forum and the Korea Nuclear Society, and the USSR Nuclear Society.

Victor Orlov, president of the Soviet nuclear agency is in Seoul to attend the signing ceremony scheduled at Seoul's Walker Hill Hotel and an international atomic energy seminar slated for Monday through Wednesday.

The accord, the first of its kinds between the two nations on a private level, calls for the exchange of all information regarding development of nuclear technology, including research on the advanced nuclear reactor, operation and maintenance of nuclear power-generation facilities and nuclear fuel.

The summarized contents of the agreement were released to the Korean press in advance yesterday.

Cooperation between the two nations in the nuclear energy field is fast strengthening since 1990 when the Soviet Union began to supply Korea with enriched uranium for its nuclear power stations on a long-term supply contract for the first time.

The accord will lead to an increase in the bilateral trade of nuclear energy-related material, equipment and technology, Korean officials said yesterday.

Korea has depended totally on Western countries for acquisition of nuclear energy technology and equipment, primarily from the United States, France and Canada.

The agreement is expected to pave the way for the Soviet Union to increase its supply of nuclear fuel to Korea, Korean nuclear energy officials observed.

Soviet nuclear fuel is known to be competitively priced against Western countries', among other things.

Despite the accord, the Soviet Union is not expected to become a new supplier of major nuclear power generation equipment, such as reactors, to Korea, because of lack of international confidence in Soviet nuclear systems, particularly in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster.

Meanwhile, participants at the Seoul nuclear energy seminar will include 100 foreign nuclear experts and officials from 11 foreign countries and 400 Korean nuclear experts.

The participating foreign countries include the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, Canada, Japan and Sweden.

The participants will make presentations on advanced nuclear energy technology, such as fast-breeder nuclear reactors, dubbed as the future-generation reactor and nuclear fuel reprocessing, Korean organizers of the seminar said.

Orlov, president of the USSR Nuclear Society, will make a presentation, titled "New stage of nuclear power development and lead-cooled fast reactors," Tuesday.

C.L. Miller, of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, will present a report, titled, "Licensing aspects of the advanced reactor development in the United States."

During the seminar session, an international exhibition of nuclear energy technology will be held at the Walker Hill Hotel, the Korean organizers said.

The participants at the exhibition include the Korea Electric Power Corp., and Combustion Engineering and Bechtel of the United States.

Joint Economic Committee With Soviets Planned

SK1404114291 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN 12 Apr in Korean 91 p 2

[Text] The visit to the ROK by Soviet President Gorbachev is just around the corner. In connection with this, the ROK Government has begun to try to resolve economic issues pending between the ROK and the Soviet Union, including the fisheries agreement involving fishing in the North Sea, the trans-Siberian fiber optics project, and the invitation of distinguished Soviet scientists to the ROK.

The Economic Planning Board said on 11 April that, considering that the visit to the ROK by Soviet President Gorbachev will be an opportunity to upgrade the level of ROK-Soviet economic cooperation, it had decided to hold multipronged negotiations in May and June, right after the visit to the ROK by President Gorbachev, to immediately form a joint economic committee, sign a fisheries agreement, and resolve other pending economic issues.

The ROK and the Soviet Union have initialed the fisheries agreement. To win fishing quotas for Alaskan pollack in the North Pacific, the Economic Planning Board has decided to hold ROK-Soviet fisheries talks in May and sign the fisheries agreement.

As part of a plan to positively invite distinguished Soviet scientists, it is also planning to invite seven or eight Soviet scientists who will work at the ROK-Soviet Scientific and Technological Cooperation Center under the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. Negotiations will start soon to discuss this matter.

The Government has also decided to have Korea Telecom, Samsung Electronics, and Gold Star Company participate in the trans-Siberian fiber optics cable project, which will cost $500 million. In connection with this, it is now holding discussions with the Soviet side to decide sections that the ROK companies will build and the scale of the supply of materials.

In addition, the government has also decided to open electronic mailboxes between the two countries, to open facsimile services, and to immediately sign an aviation agreement and a maritime agreement for direct maritime transportation.

Official on Possible Projects With Soviets

SK1304001291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] The Soviet Union will press North Korea to allow the building of a pipeline to deliver natural gas from Sakhalin to South Korea, if Seoul and Moscow agree to develop gas in that area, a Korean Ministry of Energy and Resources official said yesterday.

Yi Won, director of the ministry's Resources Development Bureau, quoted the unnamed Soviet Energy Bureau chief as saying that delivery of gas through a seabed pipeline is too expensive, and a ground delivery of gas to South Korea through North Korean soil will be cheaper.

Yi recently was back from a 20-day visit to the Soviet Union to seek joint projects for development of national resources between South Korea and the USSR.

The pipeline may link Sakhalin through North Korean Wonsan to South Korean sourthern port city of Pusan.

He said three mines in the Soviet Far East and Siberia will prove to be promising on a short-term basis. They include a copper mine in Chita and a mixed mineral mine plus a bituminous coal mine in Khabarovsk.

"Korean companies want to form a consortium to explore Soviet energy resources,"said Yi who headed a 10-man delegation to Moscow.

The Soviet economic recovery could depend on the development of Siberia, he said, noting that the western region of Lake Baikal has been stripped of natural resources.

"Soviet officials will unveil concrete proposals for joint projects soon," Yi said. The Soviets consider Korea, Japan, the United States and Australia their appropriate partners.

The Seoul government expects to react positively to the Soviet requests for joint projects, which may concern a ground oilfield in Sakhalin and a major offshore field east of the island to produce natural gas.

Electronics Parts Exporters to USSR Named

SK1504100891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—The Electronic Industry Association of Korea (EIAK) has selected three companies to supply 120 million U.S. dollars of parts for video cassette recorders [VCR] and microwave ovens to the Soviet Union, which will pay for them from an 800 million-dollar tied loan to be extended by Seoul this year.

Samsung Electronics Co. will export 60 million dollars of VCR parts, Daewoo Electronics Co. 20 million dollars of VCR parts and Gold Star Co. 40 million dollars of microwave oven parts.

EIAK will pick firms to export 5 million dollars of finished products such as color television sets and refrigerators after consultation with electronics makers.

The electronics exports are part of 34 industrial materials and consumer goods the Soviet Union will import from Korea with the 800 million-dollar tied loan.

Designation of electronics exporters wound up the selection of exporters for the 34 items.

Shipment to the Soviet Union should be possible late this month or in early May as the Korea export bank and Soviet bank for foreign economic affairs are to sign an accord this week.

'Boost' in Entering Soviet Markets Predicted

SK1504065091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—Lotte, Hyundai, Jinro Mass- Merchandising Inc. and other big-name department stores in South Korea are predicting a boost in efforts to crack the Soviet market capitalizing on the growing Seoul-Moscow relations.

They also expect the upcoming meeting in Cheju of President No Tae-u and his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev to help them in the fierce competition with foreign department stores when the Korean market opens.

Lotte, which held a Soviet goods fair in Seoul last May in cooperation with the state-run Gum Department Store, plans to hold a Korean goods fair in Gum's Moscow store in June or July, business sources said Monday.

"Lotte department store has embarked on detailed preparations for the fair in close cooperation with fast food chain Lotteria, another subsidiary of the Lotte Group, while discussing with the Soviet counterpart Gum the selection of main display items and the securing and disposition of selling space," a Lotte official said.

Hyundai, owned by the Hyundai Group, is actively preparing to open a branch in Moscow in the first half of next year and the biggest department store in the Soviet Union, Gum, has recently proposed a joint venture with Hyundai, according to the sources.

Jinro, of the Jinro Group, is finding a joint-venture partner in the Soviet Union with aims to set up a Moscow wholesale center as soon as possible, they said.

Psychological Impact of Gorbachev's Visit Viewed

SK1504061491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0519 GMT 15 Apr 91

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—The most important thing about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to South Korea this Friday may well be its psychological impact on the business community, which is deeply concerned about the uncertain future of the Soviet economy.

Gorbachev's stay will be brief and a dramatic outcome is most unlikely, South Korean officials concede, but the very fact that the Soviet head of state has extended his Japanese visit to make Cheju his first stop in either South or North Korea may lift morale and hasten economic activities.

Despite visible signs of growing economic ties, notably the rapid pace of two-way trade, advancement into weightier business sectors, such as plant construction and direct investment in infrastructure, has fallen short of expectations, Korean analysts point out.

The delayed first round of Korea-Soviet fisheries cooperation talks, initially scheduled for early March, is one example of the shaky economic outlook, they say. Moscow notified Seoul of the indefinite delay one week before the talks were to begin, citing the domestic situation.

Uncertainty about Soviet domestic developments is hindering investment in some of the major projects planned by Korean conglomerates. While Hyundai Corp. has landed on a Siberian forestry development project, it is yet to make progress with plans to build a trade center in Nakhodka. Samsung Co. similarly says plans to build a hotel there are going too slowly.

While the two sides have talked at length about technological tie-ups and transfers, Korean experts say they lack material and information on just what they can expect from the Soviets.

Optimists point to the dramatic increase in bilateral trade, an average 60.8-percent annual hike in volume between 1987 and 1990.

Two-way shipments totaled 600 million U.S. dollars in 1989, double the previous year, and jumped in 1990 to 889 million dollars.

The first two months of 1991 turned in a figure of 155 million dollars, an impressive 42 percent increase over the same period last year.

Exports have grown even more visibly, rising 149.5 percent in 1990 to 519 million dollars.

Business sources predict over a billion dollars in trade this year, projecting at least 1.1 billion dollars in exports and 500 million dollars in imports.

Economic ties preceded diplomatic relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union. The two countries exchanged trade offices in April 1989 and consular offices in February 1990. On Sept. 30, Seoul and Moscow normalized relations.

A short while after tying the diplomatic knot, Seoul agreed in January on a 3 billion-dollar economic aid package for Moscow.

The 3 billion dollars was divided into a 1.5 billion-dollar tied loan, which will be used to pay for imports of Korean consumer and industrial goods, 500 million dollars in deferred payments and 1 billion dollars in syndicated bank loans.

Detailed settlement of the aid package began last month, when Moscow agreed to buy 34 industrial materials and consumer goods with 800 million dollars of the 1.5 billion-dollar tied loan.

Given the active economic links between Seoul and Moscow, businessmen here will be looking for signs from Gorbachev during his visit Friday that they can count on Moscow's full backing for their ventures in the Soviet Union.

A Soviet nod of full support is especially important as Korea cannot compete forever in the consumer products sector, analysts note. Advanced markets like Japan will be looking for a share in the Soviet market.

The Korean Government should be looking at the long term, setting its sights on direct investment in construction, natural resource development and building up the relatively weak Soviet infrastructure, according to analysts. Getting Moscow's guarantee of "business safety" on such projects will be easy, they say, because the deals will be between government agencies rather than private firms.

Such a guarantee, businessmen here hope, will be broadly hinted at by Gorbachev during his stopover on Cheju.

Tied Loan of $800 Million Signed With Moscow

SK1604065291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0610 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—The Export-Import Bank of Korea signed a credit facility agreement worth 800 million U.S. dollars with the Soviet bank for foreign economic affairs here Tuesday.

The Soviet Government guarantees repayment of prinicipal and interest, which is Libor (London inter-bank offered rate) plus 1.375 percent per annum over two years, a bank spokesman said.

The loan will be used to pay for Korean-made consumer goods purchased by the Soviet Union.

Last year, Korea promised the Soviet Union 3 billion dollars, of which 1.5 billion dollars was to pay for consumer goods.

Under the loan, Korean firms will be able to export products to the communist country beginning next month, he said.

Kotra To Pick Korea-Soviet Trade Center Site

SK1604023291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0150 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Moscow City Government has given the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) permission to choose a site for a Korea-Soviet Trade Center in the Soviet capital, trade industry sources said Tuesday.

Im In-chu, a Kotra vice president and head of a Kotra fact-finding team, exchanged a letter of intent with Vice Mayor Y. Loujkov in Moscow on April 12, allowing the South Korean state-run corporation to choose from four sites offered for the mammoth trade center, the sources said.

The Soviets wanted to use a site on Garibaldi Street, but Kotra refused. In selecting a location from the four, one of which is on Krasnoproretarskya, Kotra will take into account traffic and rent, they said.

Lucky-Goldstar, Samsung, Daewoo and six other Korean firms are to take part in building the trade center, which will cost an estimated 300 million U.S. dollars. Construction is due to begin in October, during a Korea-Soviet trade ministers conference, for completion by late 1996.

The fact-finding team will survey the four sites and choose one after it returns to Seoul on April 20.

Firms Plan To Participate in Soviet Exhibition

SK1604062791 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 10 Apr 91 p 7

[Text] Three ROK companies will participate in the first Soviet electronic communications exhibition which will be held for 10 days starting 5 June in Moscow. The three companies—Korea Communication, Goldstar Telecommunication, and Samsung Electronics—will participate in the form of a group representing the ROK.

According to Korea Communication on 9 April, the leasing of the exhibition hall which is 500 square meters in size will be ensured by Korea Communication. It was decided that Korea Communication will occupy 300 square meters to set up its exhibition hall and the other two companies will each occupy 100 square meters to set up their exhibition halls.

Soviet Korean on North's Activities in USSR

SK1604110191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0952 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea is coaxing Koreans in the Soviet Union, trying to win them over to its side in rivalry against South Korea, claimed a Korean-born Soviet resident.

Pyongyang's intentions are obvious, according to Pak Yong-chun, a 55-year-old poet-turned-journalist who came to Seoul to attend an international seminar at Taegu University opening later this week.

North Korea has suddenly formed a committee called National Unification Promotion Board in the Soviet Union on April 15, 1989, to commemorate its President Kim Il-song's birthday, Pak said.

Ethnic Koreans are told they will be treated to a free tour in North Korea if they join the committee, commonly called by its acronym "Chotongui." Thousands of Koreans have visited North Korea last year since the committee was formed, Pak said.

"North Korea did not give us the smallest attention before the Seoul Olympics, and we cannot but doubt its real intentions behind its sudden interest in us," he said.

Seoul and Moscow normalized ties last Sept. 30 and a third summit between the presidents is due this Friday.

Pak, also known by his pen name Pak Hyon, is himself from North Korea. He lived with his parents and younger sister in Pyongyang writing free-versed, emotionalist poems.

He was branded as "a reactionary" in July 1964 for his works, criticized for following Soviet line of thinking too closely, and was incarcerated at coal mine labor camp with his entire family.

He escaped alone the following January by swimming across the icy Yalu River into Khasan in the Soviet Union and spent another year and a half under the custody of KGB in Vladivostok.

Pak spent the following years as a laborer in Sakhalin before being hired as a reporter for a Korean-language newspaper in Alma Ata in 1974. He switched to broadcasting in 1984 and currently serves as an editorial writer.

"North Korea is all out to lure the Koreans in the Soviet Union to its side," Pak said. "I am fearful that some time in the future, the Koreans will end up taking sides and split up like in Japan."

Pak was referring to the rift among Korean residents in Japan, split between pro-Pyongyang Chochongnyon and pro-Seoul Mindan. Pak's fears are well-based, considering the similarity in the process of their migration to the foreign grounds.

Koreans were mobilized in masses during World War II to work at labor camps, forcibly shipped off to Japan and the Soviet Union. Even after the war ended, the Koreans were stranded there with both countries refusing to claim responsibility and send them back. There are an estimated 440,000 Koreans living in the Soviet Union and 700,000 in Japan.

Koreans in the Soviet Union set up an ethnic cultural center in early 1989, buoyed by the great success of the summer Olympics in Seoul the previous year where the United States and the Soviet Union ended their politically motivated boycott of eight years to compete together.

The North Korea-led committee, through heavy lobbying by its diplomatic offices in the Soviet Union, appeared just months later, Pak said.

The committee handpicks active residents to give them high posts, gives them approximately 10 rubles (5.8 U.S. dollars) as regular activity funds and encourages them to go out and urge fellow Koreans to follow North Korean President Kim Il-song's "chuche (self-reliance)" ideology, Pak claimed.

Asked if he also wants to return to North Korea, Pak said, "not before Kim Il-song dies."

Opposition Urges Defense Minister's Resignation

SK1404044491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Apr 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] Opposition parties yesterday demanded the dismissal of Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku for his controversial remarks on North Korean nuclear facilities.

While meeting news media editors Friday, Yi made remarks that could be interpreted as suggesting that the south could launch preemptive commando-type attacks against North Korean nuclear facilities to halt the development of nuclear weapons.

Later in the day, Yi explained what he really meant was that the South could respond in such a manner if it were attacked by the North using Scud missiles or nuclear weapons.

The main opposition New Democratic Union issued a statement calling for Yi's dismissal, charging him with reckless remarks that might give an excuse for the North to launch an armed provocation against the South.

"Yi made a grave blunder that might give a fatal blow to inter-Korean relations. Such a man should no longer be trusted with the management of important affairs of the nation," the statement said.

The Democratic Party and the Minjung (People's) Party of Korea also demanded that the defense minister instantly be fired.

"We are deeply concerned that Yi's remarks might negatively affect a newly-emerging atmosphere for the promotion of exchanges and the restoration of confidence between South and North Korea," commented Rep. Chang Sok-hwa, spokesman for the minor Democratic Party.

The Minjung Party called on Yi to take responsibility for his "antinational, antiunification" remarks that unnecessarily fostered a sense of crisis among the people.

During the meeting with senior journalists, Yi said, "If the North goes ahead with its development of nuclear weapons, we cannot but take strong punitive steps." He added options could include an "Entebbe-like raid," referring to the Israeli commandos' attack on Entebbe airport in Uganda in 1976 to save 276 hostages from Palestinian guerrillas.

Yi later said his remarks were misquoted and requested the media not to report them.

According to some reports, Chongwadae officials were incensed about what Yi said, but it was not clear whether the minister would be made to assume responsibility for the flap.

Earlier, the minister caused a stir when he said that the government might study the possibility of sending combat troops to the Gulf to join the U.S.-led multinational force.

Communist North Korea has joined the international nuclear non- proliferation pact, but refuses to sign an international nuclear safeguards accord.

The regime is suspected of making nuclear bombs. Some military experts say that North Korea could produce nuclear bombs in 1994 or 1995.

Defense Ministry officials were yesterday embarrassed as opposition parties demanded the dismissal of Minister Yi for his "slip of the tongue."

"He just meant ... that it could possibly be considered," said a ministry official, who refused further comment.

Another official said that it was a "sheer verbal lapse," adding that "I don't understand why he made up such a fairy tale in front of journalists."

South To Ship Rice Directly to North 30 Apr

SK1604031591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—A shipment of South Korean rice will leave for North Korea on April 30 in the first direct trade between the two Koreas since their division in 1945.

The heads of the two trading firms carrying out the barter deal have agreed the rice will be shipped to the North between April 30 and early May, and North Korean anthracite and cement will be sent to the South between May 1 and May 5, the National Unification Board said Tuesday.

Cheonji Chairman Yu Sang-yol and Pak Kyung-yun, an American businesswoman who heads the Kumgangsan International Trade and Development Corp. of North Korea, reached the agreements in Tokyo on April 14.

The two agreed March 29 to directly exchange 5,000 tons of rice for 30,000 tons of anthracite and 11,000 tons of cement.

The rice will be delivered to one of four ports—Najin, Chongjin, Hamhung or Wonsan—to be decided by North Korea.

The coal and cement will be shipped from one of the four ports to one of three South Korean ports—Mukho, Tonghae or Sokcho—to be decided by the South.

Yu and Pak will meet again in Tokyo on April 25 to discuss procedural matters.

Pak did not raise any objection to news coverage of the swap in South Korea.

Mokpo, Wonsan To Serve as N-S Barter Ports

SK1504101091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—Ships will carry coal and cement from North Korea to South Korea, and rice from the South to the North, in the first direct barter deal between the two Koreas before May 5, a government official said Monday.

It had been agreed to use Inchon and Nampo but the ports were switched to Mokpo, southwest of Seoul, and Wonsan, on the east coast of North Korea.

Yu Sang-yol, president of the Seoul-based Chonji Trade Co., and Pak Kyong-yun, president of the Pyongyang-based Kumgangsan International Trade Development Co., discussed details of shipment and routes when they met Sunday in Tokyo, he said.

"The two had earlier agreed to use Inchon and Nampo as the gates for trade, but suggested (to each other) that they change to Mokpo and Wonsan. Mokpo has one of the South's major rice stores and Wonsan was suggested instead of Nampo because Nampo is one of the busiest ports in North Korea," the source said.

The National Unification Board announced last week that it had endorsed Chonji's plan to send 5,000 tons of rice to North Korea in return for 30,000 tons of coal and 11,000 tons of cement.

It is the first direct trade since Korea was divided into the capitalist South and communist North in 1945.

North 'Wants' 500,000 Tons of Additional Rice

SK1604064891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea wants 500,000 tons of South Korean rice from the Cheonji Trading Co. on top of the 100,000 tons already ordered, the owner of the Seoul-based company said Tuesday.

In a news conference, Cheonji chairman Yu Sang-yol said his company was considering a proposal to import silicon dioxide, zinc , black lead and stone from North Korea in return.

Cheonji and Kumgangsan International Trade and Development Corp. of North Korea signed a contract March 29 to swap 5,000 tons of rice for 30,000 tons of anthracite and 11,000 tons of cement in the first direct barter deal between the two sides.

The first shipment of the rice will be made between April 30 and May 5, and the coal and cement will arrive between May 1 and May 5.

Yu said Pak Kyong-yun, American head of Kumgangsan, would visit Beijing to discuss the additional import of South Korean rice with the firm's Beijing branch.

Yu said he might be aboard the Panamanian ship that will take the rice to the North from Mokpo port, but was hesitating for health reasons. He has obtained an invitation from North Korea.

He said he did not mind if the barter deal fell through because he was a Christian and his only motivation was Christian love and national reconciliation.

In addition, any loss would be offset 100 percent by the inter-Korean exchange cooperation fund because it is the first such deal, he said. Losses on inter-Korean trade are officially eligible for up to 90 percent compensation.

Yu said Cheonji was also considering joint ventures with North Korean companies to develop North Korean mines, and called the first direct inter-Korean barter deal "significant."

Yu said he had asked for and received North Korean permission to hold the news conference.

Southern rice fetches 350 U.S. dollars a ton on the international market, he said.

Anti-Kim Il-song Force Reported in North

SK1604053491 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Report by Tokyo-based correspondent Yi Chun-pal from the 'Nine O'Clock News' program]

[Text] According to foreign news reports, East European observers believe that today, Kim Il-song's 79th birthday, may turn out to be his last in office.

Aside from this observation, some in Japan believe that the democratic force is being clandestinely organized and an anti-Kim Il-song movement is under way.

Correspondent Yi Chun-pal reports from Tokyo:

[Begin Yi recording] According to some members of the General Association of Koreans Residing in Japan [Chochongnyon] who have returned from a visit to North Korea earlier this month and sources well-versed in North Korea's internal affairs, the anti-Kim Il-song movement which has recently been observed to be under way in North Korea seems to be broadly spreading across the country and be in the process of being organized.

A considerable number of the anti-Kim Il-song force determined to be in the van of a national movement as such is reported to have penetrated the power core such as the high-ranking positions of the Workers' Party of Korea, the military establishment, political security police, and social security force. It is also reported that these are engaged in secretly building a national organization to oust Kim Il-song by establishing ties with the lower reaches of power.

Moreover, lurking behind these are a considerable number of the North Korean residents who have lived under assumed identifications but have not given up their affiliation with the now defunct Workers' Party of Korea in South Korea [Namnodang] even after escaping Kim Il-song's purge following the Korean war and an estimated 500,000 political offenders who have been detained in either coal mines or concentration camps including places of exile, forming a supporting force with huge potential that must be reckoned with.

In addition, these core members of the anti-Kim Il-song, anti-Kim Chong-il force are known to have already started establishing ties with the supporting forces in the Soviet Union and China.

According to another source, the North Korean people's riots over the shortage of foodstuffs which are reported to have erupted frequently over the past few years are expected to become more serious following Kim Il-song's 79th birthday.

This source, which has also revealed that the amount of money that the Chochongnyon collected as Kim Il-song's birthday fund this year was only half the amount, 6 billion yen, that organization had collected last year, said that the situation North Korea finds itself in is most serious due to the international isolation and such a serious internal situation. [end recording]

Head of Trade Office in Beijing Views Future

SK1404043491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] No Chae-won, head of the South Korean Trade Representative Office in Beijing, said yesterday that Korea is ready to conclude various bilateral agreements with China on the promotion of trade and other exchanges even before the normalization of full diplomatic ties.

They include tariffs, the prevention of double taxation and aviation among others, he said during a press conference yesterday. He returned from Beijing Thursday to attend this week's meeting of chiefs of overseas Korean diplomatic missions. The Korean Trade Representative Office opened in Beijing in January.

He observed that China might provide South Korea with "most-favored nation" status in tariffs which are given to states with which China has diplomatic relations.

Though South Korea provides preferential treatment in tariffs for Chinese goods, China still refuses to apply what she called "generalized tariffs" to South Korean goods because of the absence of full diplomatic relations.

"China's attitude is changing. Before long, the settlement of the question will be found," said Amb. No.

He cited the increasing two-way trade between the two countries which amounted to $3.8 billion last year. South Korea imported $2.2 billion of Chinese goods while exporting $1.6 billion in products to China.

No said that the opening of the Korean trade representative office in Beijing paved the way for brisker activities of Korean companies in China. Six Korean trading companies have registered with the Chinese authorities since last January, he said.

"As agreed upon by the two sides," he said, "Officials at the Korean trade representative office in Beijing are refraining from political and diplomatic activities. There has been no meaningful contacts with Chinese foreign ministry officials, though the lines of communication are open," said No.

He showed a noncommittal attitude when asked about the prospects for the establishment of full diplomatic ties.

However, he said, "We are ready to conclude various agreements with China at any time to further promote trade and human exchanges even before the normalization of full diplomatic relations."

He said that he got the impression that China is implementing the principle of separating politics from economic matters in dealing with South Korea. China is a long-time ally of North Korea.

Asked about China's attitude toward South Korea's bid to enter the United Nations this year, No said, "I believe China is well aware of South Korea's determination to seek U.N. membership this year."

"I believe that China will make a reasonable decision on the question commensurate with her status as a super power and as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council," said No.

No said that Seoul's admission to the United Nations and its establishment of diplomatic reactions with Beijing are "not totally separated, but not necessarily closely interrelated."

Difficulty in Korean Fighter Program Discussed

SK1504095891 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 12 Apr 91 p 3

[Editorial: "The Improvement of Self-Defense Capability Which Cannot Be Done as Smoothly as We Wish"]

[Text] The so-called Korean Fighter Program (KFP) is said to be running into difficulties again. According to a report, the purchase of the F-16 Falcons of the U.S. General Dynamics, which the government decided on as the next generation fighters on 28 March after much pains-taking thought, seems to be encountering difficulties prior to entering into a contract, because problems are anticipated in technology transfer. Several months ago, we had decided to purchase McDonnell Douglas' F-18 Hornets but we revoked the decision because the supplier demanded a drastic price increase when the contract was about to be signed.

Why should this undergo such difficulties? To give one conclusion, it represents the unavoidable conflict between the logic of a major power which enjoys an advantageous position and that of a small nation which is struggling to improve itself despite its disadvantages. Although the ROK and the United States are friendly nations and allies, there is an inevitable conflict between the position of the ROK, which is trying to improve its self-defense capability as best it can, and the position of the United States, which does not want countries like the ROK to have too much defense capability, as it may upset the military balance in the region where the U.S. Forces are stationed, and therefore it should check the military tension that may arise from it.

There have been conflicts of that nature between the United States and Japan. Among the three major aircraft the Japanese Self- Defense Aviation Unit (air force) now has, Japan is manufacturing the F-15 fighters under technological license agreement by purchasing them under the U.S. military sales (FMS), manufacturing the F-4EJ Phantoms under technological license agreement, and supplying the F-1 support fighters from 100 percent local manufacture. As for the P3C antisubmarine patrol planes, which are the main aircraft of the Japanese Sea Self-Defense Unit (navy), although Japan wants to increase the rate of local manufacture, it has to purchase them in nearly finished form because of the stubborn opposition of the United States.

We can well assess the U.S. position toward the ROK in view of the above. We want to manufacture modern fighters necessary for our self-defense without relying on others as best as we can. This hope of ours is reflected to the maximum in the F-16 purchase plan of 12 units of aircraft in finished form, 36 manufactured under license agreement, and 72 manufactured jointly. We want to learn technology to the maximum degree in the process. The U.S. authorities, including the U.S. Congress, are putting brakes against our desires. Early in the 1970's our plan to purchase more Phantoms was frustrated by the Japanese lobbying with the United States.

Thus, it is not so simple for us to form a self-reliant national defense and improve the self-defense capability. The government, which should be aware of this situation, encountered difficulties shortly before entering into a contract after deciding the kind of aircraft to be purchased. This gives us the impression that the government is too naive in dealing with this business. We may need a silent and able lobbying effort prior to negotiations with the other side which has a far greater advantage.

Officials Comment on Inauguration of EBRD

SK1304084291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0619 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—The inauguration Monday of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London will help South Korea, a founding member, to expedite economic cooperation with East-European nations, Korean officials said Saturday.

EBRD, which will help East European countries to reform their economies, was proposed by French President Francois Mitterrand in November 1989 and is participated in by 41 countries and international organizations.

Participation will boost Korea's status in the international community, the officials said. Japan is the only other Asian country to participate.

Korea will get an edge in joining various development projects in Eastern Europe and affiliation with the European Bank will become the foothold for a Korean advance into the embryonic single market of the European Community.

It will give Korea easy access to information on Europe and mutual cooperation with Western European countries because the 12 European Community [countries] (EC) played a leading role in establishment of EBRD.

The participants are the 12 EC countries, 11 non-EC European countries, the Soviet Union, six Eastern European nations and nine from other continents (including the United States, Canada, Australia, Mexico and Egypt).

Korea will put up 65 million European currency units, [ECUS] some 78 million U.S. dollars, or 0.65 percent of the total capital of 10 billion ECUS. In terms of investment, Korea shares 27th place with Israel and Greece.

The United States is top with 10 percent followed by Japan, Germany, France, Italy and Britain, which each invested 8.5175 percent.

The Soviet Union put in 6 percent and Canada and Spain 3.4 percent. The EC and European Investment Bank (EIB) invested 3 percent each.

Of the total authorized capital, 1.5625 percent has not been allotted and Korea, Romania and Malta hope to increase their shares. India, Venezuela, Brazil and Albania want to join.

EBRD funds will be used basically to support East-bloc nations in changing from a socialist economy to market economy. EBRD will assist the restructuring of state-run enterprises to suit the market economy and the privatization of state companies.

Nations that begin development projects this year and readjust their industrial structure will receive EBRD loans. The bank plans to extend commercial loans to six to eight private development projects this year and 15 to 20 projects next year.

EBRD will carefully screen countries applying for loans and limit the use of the loans in order to avoid the mistake of the 1970's, when billions of dollars in economic aid to communist countries were converted to military purposes.

Although Korea made enormous efforts to expand trade with Eastern Europe, it had negligible success because of its lack of information about the practices and systems of those countries.

Joining the EBRD will help the country to overcome its difficulties in trade with those countries.

Assembly Plans To Convene Extraordinary Session

SK1604091291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly will convene a 21-day extraordinary sitting Friday, speaker Pak Chyon-kyu announced Tuesday.

There will be a plenary session Saturday to confirm Kim Chong-ho, ruling party floor leader, as chairman of the steering committee.

Rep. Kim Yong-chae of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and Rep. Pak Chong-tae of the New Democratic Union will be confirmed as chairmen of the National Assembly Construction Committee and the Trade and Industry Committee, respectively.

Lawyer Yi Chun-sung will be made a member of the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC), replacing Kim Tu-hyon, whose term finishes Wednesday. The National Assembly names three CEMC members.

On Monday, Prime Minister No Chae-pong will deliver an address on state affairs. The administration will explain its revised supplementary budget and a special committee on budget and accounting will be created.

Standing committees will meet from April 29, following interpellation April 23-27.

The sitting is expected to handle some 30 bills, including legislation on reforms. The prospects for passage of the reform bills, however, are dim as the DLP and NDU are in deep disagreement, according to a source familiar with assembly affairs.

The DLP and NDU whips met Tuesday and settled on politics, unification, diplomacy, security, economy, society and culture for interpellation, but not the Suso housing scandal and pollution of the Nakdong River.

The DLP side agreed to allow the pollution issue to be raised as part of the interpellation on the economy, to be attended by the Health and Social Affairs Minister and the Environment Minister after the NDU agreed not to insist on making the Suso scam and pollution incident separate topics, according to the DLP floor leader.

The DLP and NDU senior vice whips discussed details of the schedule for the special sitting.

President No on National Security Law Reform

SK1604022491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Monday that revision of the National Security Law should reflect the nation's realities and North Korean criminal law, which has not changed in 40 years.

"The ruling and opposition parties should proceed with negotiations on reform bills, including the National Security Law, to benefit the future of our country," No said after being briefed by ruling party floor leader Kim Chong-ho on the operation guideline of the 154th extraordinary session of the National Assembly.

No gave instructions for the Democratic Liberal Party, which he heads, to accommodate all "reasonable" opposition requests but to use logic to defeat demands that were inconsistent with the national interest.

The March 29 local elections were held in a fair and clean atmosphere, and the large-unit local elections slated for June should be held in the same way, No told Kim.

Battles With Students 'Expected' Over Film

SK1604075491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0700 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Kim Hyong-kun]

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Fierce battles are expected on campuses across South Korea this week as students try to show a banned film and the police try to stop them.

"Mother, Your Son" has been ruled in contravention of the national security law by the police, but the students who made it and their companions who want to see it are not impressed.

Since the student council at Kyong Hui university fought off the police and showed the 16-millimeter film on Monday, many other councils have found the courage to follow suit to mark the anniversary April 19 of the student overthrow of the government in 1960.

Clashes over films are nothing new. Students and police have fought each other over movies about the Kwangju Democratic Movement and the labor movement for the last couple of years and even over a North Korean film.

The police have grown more determined to prevent the showing of anything they think is a "dissident film" and the students have responded in kind, resulting in bloodshed and social outcry.

At Kyong Hui University, some 50 people suffered minor and serious injuries in pitched battles as police and students waged war with tear gas, clubs, firebombs and chunks of paving stones.

On April 9, Kim Hyon-kyu, a business management senior at Suwon Campus of Kyonggi University, had his right eye shot out by a police tear gas bomb while demonstrating against a raid to stop a film show.

Police confiscated a copy of "Mother, Your Son" from the offices of Cinema Space 1895, run by amateur film enthusiasts in western Seoul, on the same day and ransacked the office where a private showing was to be held.

On April 12, the police also raided a small theatre in Pusan, a southeastern port city, and seized two movie projectors and another copy of the film.

The 80-minute joint offspring of four university film clubs is about the emotional turmoil of a student after his mother, a street peddler, orders him not to get involved with radicals.

In the movie, the student gives up his activism because of his mother's tearful pleas. The impassioned young man is unable to endure his forced silence, however, and throws himself back into activism after watching fellow students burn themselves to death, go to jail and get put on the wanted list.

The student producers say the film is taken from real life, using information obtained by interviewing the parents of students in prison, fugitives on the police arrest list and poor street peddlers.

The police say the film violates the national security law because it generates anti-government feelings and helps North Korea by putting violent efforts for national unification in a positive light.

In addition, they say showing the film violates the law on public performances because "Mother, Your Son" has neither been registered with the Culture Ministry nor reported to the governments of the cities where it is to be shown.

The Kyong Hui student council has accused the government of being unnecessarily negative and insists the film contains nothing that could cause trouble.

"It goes beyond my understanding to see the government crack down on the film just because it finds it distasteful. The law allows the showing of a 16-mm film without government approval," a council official said.

Student Gets 6 Years for Pro-DPRK Activities

SK1504095991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—Student leader Song Kap-sok, 25, was sentenced Monday in a Seoul criminal court to six years in jail for pro-Pyongyang activities under the National Security Law.

The ex-chairman of the National Alliance of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) was found guilty of belonging to an anti-state organization, of possessing and reading books that were beneficial to an enemy and of instigating demonstrations.

The judge said the organization, Chamintong [National Alliance for Democratic Reunification], hurt the state and democratic order, and Song deserved to be punished for being a member. There are no juries in Korea.

It said Chamintong's aim was to overthrow and replace the government, and that Song had contact with the North Korean Students Committee and organized illegal demonstrations.

Song's body guard, Son Chong-kuk, 23, a Chonnam University junior, received one year.

The prosecution had sought 10 years for Song, chairman of the Student Council at state-run Chonnam University in Kwangju.

The bench rejected prosecution claims that Song joined Chamintong in 1989 and led various demonstrations and assemblies after being elected chairman of Chondaehyop in January 1990.

He was also cleared of exchanging messages with Choi Hyon-tok, chairman of the North Korean Student Committee, about a meeting of inter-Korean students in October last year.

Some 200 students and dissidents in the audience interrupted the sentencing for about 30 minutes with a noisy protest.

Burma

'Juntas' Step Up War Against Khun Sa

BK1404024291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0222 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Tha Ton, Thailand, April 14 (AFP)—Opium warlord Khun Sa, branded by the United States as the "Prince of Death," is locked in a battle for survival as the juntas of Burma and Thailand step up their war against him.

The chain-smoking 57-year-old supplier of 70 per cent of the world's heroin has suddenly found his multi-million dollar empire threatened. Deeply ensconced in the rich poppy-growing mountains of northern Burma opposite this Thai border city, Khun Sa is struggling to retain the almost unchallenged grip over the heroin trade he has held for almost 25 years.

In just over a month, he has found himself and his army being pounded on one side by Wa ethnic minority rebels backed by Rangoon, and on the other by Thai troops who have seized dozens of his key mountain posts.

The Thai military, long accused of taking pay-offs to allow Khun Sa's heroin laden caravans to pass unhindered across the border, have suddenly gone on the offensive against the man blamed for thousands of drug deaths on the streets of the United States, Europe and Australia. Last month, the Thai Air Force carried out its first-ever air strike on a heroin refinery several kilometers (miles) inside Burma. Other attacks against the factories that refine opium into heroin have been promised.

Meanwhile, the Thai Third Army has seized nearly 30 key mountaintop posts used to protect the drug routes leading to the Thai border, according to Thai military officers.

The Was, longtime rivals for the lucrative routes winding through the almost inaccessible mountains, have, along with support from Rangoon, inflicted heavy casualities on their bitter enemies. Last month 29 of Khun Sa's soldiers were gunned down in their camp over breakfast by Wa troops dressed as Thai rangers.

The Thai military bitterly deny claims from Khun Sa that a local Ranger commander had been paid up to 600,000 baht (24,000 dollars) to lead the Was into the camp to slaughter Khun Sa's men. "We have investigated the claims and are convinced that none of our men were involved," said Lieutenant Colonel Sanchai Otsaruwan of task force 327, responsible for the border area. "Anyone can buy Ranger outfits, even the Was," he insisted.

Only days after the massacre a mortar shell landed in Tha Tong, killing two Thais and wounding several others. The attack spurred the Thai military to launch a series of strikes against both the Was and Khun Sa's militia of Shans—another minority—to drive them away from the border. An estimated 500 Thai soldiers are now firmly in place inside Burma in forts once held by Khun Sa. And the Thais have no intention of retreating back behind the border. "If we withdraw, the Was or Khun Sa's men will come back. We are staying," explained Thai intelligence officer Major Sutat Jarumamee.

The sudden offensive by the Thai army and the Rangoon-backed Was has surprised western drug agents fighting to eliminate the over 2,000 tonnes of heroin a year that flows out of Burma, much of it shipped through Thailand. "There is no doubt that on the surface this offensive is good news but it would be foolish to read too much into it," said one agent. "Frankly, I remain skeptical at the moment," he said of the Thai seizure of the forts used to protect Khun Sa's drug routes through the mountains. "Let's wait and see if a reduction in the heroin crossing over shows up before we get too excited," he added.

Agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, based in nearby Chiang Mai, the centre of heroin trading in Thailand and where Khun Sa has an office, have long been pushing the Thai government to take the battle to the warlord. The Thai military admit the site of the heroin refinery they attacked by air last month was pinpointed by the Americans.

But while he finds himself under attacks from all sides, Chinese-born Khun Sa continues to put on a brave face. Only days after his troops—many of them in their teens—were forced to retreat from their bunkers near the Thai border, he held a huge party Friday to celebrate Songkran, the traditional Thai and Burmese new year, at his heavily protected headquarters to the south. Several senior Thai military commanders based near the border were invited to the all-night festivities and were expected to attend as they do every year.

Despite the display of bravado, Khun Sa's spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Khernsai Jaiyone acknowledged shortly after leaving his home in Chiang Mai to join the new year celebrations that his leader was facing his worst crisis in ten years. But he refused to concede defeat. "The Thais and the Shans go back a long way," he said.

Observers are convinced the rules of the game are changing. The Burmese Government has remained silent over the air strikes and heavy presence of Thai troops now firmly based in Burma. "It looks as if the two juntas have reached some sort of secret accord. If they have, it spells trouble for Khun Sa," one observer said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Trade Minister Urges Regional Cooperation

BK1504114991 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 3

[By M. Sahibullah]

[Text] Ipoh, Sat—ASEAN countries should determine their own future instead of leaving it in the hands of foreign powers.

"They should think of the long-term benefits of regional co-operation," said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz at a buka puasa [fast-breaking] ceremony organised by Wanita [women] UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Perak last night.

ASEAN should not be intimidated by threats by superpowers to withdraw funds or grants because if we can discuss among ourselves and neighbours about matters of common interest, and the benefits that can be reaped are immense.

She was commenting on threats by the United States to cut off funds and grants to some ASEAN countries in a move to dissuade them from agreeing to the formation of the East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG) mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

She described U.S. claims that EAEG would belittle the role of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] as unfounded as the aim of forming the EAEG was to hold consultative forum and not to duplicate the role of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation.

"APEC is represented by major powers and has specific aims. But EAEG is only interested in holding consultative forums and discussions and not to make policies or form trade pacts," she said, adding that this was exactly what she told both Japan and South Korea during her trip to the two countries recently.

"However, if the United States contunues to object along that line, then we will harp on their role in the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Canada and Mexico and its effects on APEC."

She also dismissed claims by the United States that it has not been briefed about the EAEG.

"Before going to Japan and Korea, I personally discussed the matter in my office with the U.S. Ambassador from Cleveland who told me that the United States usually opposes anything that they are not included."

She said there was no reason for the United States to get involved in the EAEG.

On her recent mission to Japan and South Korea, Datuk Seri Rafidah said both countries seemed very keen about the EAEG, especially the concept of holding loose consultative forums and discussions as this would help expedite the expansion of regional trade and to enable them to identify the type of business that can be exploited regionally.

"Even president No Tae-u of South Korea was impressed with the idea. He described this region as the most dynamic and added that Dr Mahathir's concept fit into it very well."

She said both countries would probably make their stand known at the Senior Oficers Meeting scheduled in Kuala Lumpur next month, during which EAEG would be one of the topics to be discussed.

Ghafar Assures Ethnic Chinese, Indians of Rights

BK1504103791 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.—Malaysia is the permanent home for Malaysians of Chinese and Indian origins, Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba said, adding that they will continue to enjoy their rights and benefits of development together with the Malays.

The Deputy Prime Minister described as untrue the allegations by certain quarters that the Chinese and Indians were living in Malaysia on a temporary basis and would have to return to their countries of origin in time to come.

"These unfounded claims are being made by irresponsible people who are trying to undermine the Government's efforts to strengthen racial unity.

"The Chinese and Indians here must consider Malaysia as their permanent home and must work with the Malays to ensure that peace and harmony prevail at all times," Encik Ghafar said at the opening of the Muhiban [goodwill] Photography contest at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

The contest is jointly organised by NANYANG SIANG PAU and the Photography Society of Malaysia and is being sponsored by Country Heights Sdn Bhd [private limited] and Malaysia Airlines.

Encik Ghafar said that except for the racial riots in 1969, Malaysians have proven to the world that they could live and work together in peace despite having different racial and religious backgrounds.

He said all races were being treated fairly and were given opportunities to take part in all fields such as politics and economic activities.

"Today the different races are living in comfort and harmony because of the democratic system that we practise.

"But Malaysians must not take it for granted that this democratic style of Government will be continued by future generations.

"Therefore, we must ensure that this system is upheld and practised in this country."

Encik Ghafar said the Prime Minister's vision of making Malaysia a developed country by the year 2020 could only be achieved if Malaysians continued to live in peace and harmony.

On the pending Usukan by-election in Sabah, he said the candidate would be from UMNO [United Malays National Organization] and a Sabahan would contest.

The candidate would only be announced on the eve of nomination day, he said.

It would be up to Parti Bersatu Sabah whether to contest or not, he said when asked to comment on talk that it might stay out of the contest.

Earlier, NANYANG SIANG PAU managing director Toh Ching Kiong said the objective of the photography contest was to promote racial harmony and understanding.

"It is hoped that participating photographers of all races, including foreigners, will capture the images of togetherness in the country. Hopefully, this will help inculcate the spirit of racial harmony among all Malaysians," he said.

MCA Moves to Help Chinese Community in Kelantan

BK0904122291 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Apr 91 p 2

[By A. Rahman Osman]

[Text] Johor Baharu, Sun. [Sunday]—The MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] has appointed Vice President Datuk Lim Ah Lek and youth chief Datuk Chan Kong Choy to look into the plight of the Chinese community in Kelantan under the PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party]-led state government.

Johor party secretary Lim Si Cheng said the party was concerned about the community's position with regard to an assortment of issues.

Mr. Lim, who is also political secretary to MCA President Datuk Sri Dr. Ling Liong Sik, said here today that the party's apprehension stemmed from government policies in the state which had gone against the aspirations of a multiracial Malaysian society.

MCA has already barred party members in Kelantan from cooperating with the state government.

Datuk Sri Dr. Ling had warned that collaborators risked expulsion from the party.

It is learnt that some measures instituted by the PAS government have caused apprehension among non-Muslims.

These include the decision to allow women to work only on day shifts and the possible withdrawal of licenses for pawnshops and the sale of alcoholic drinks.

In the case of alcohol, it is learnt that initially all sales were banned in shops frequented by Muslims. However, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Kelantan Shopkeepers Association sent representatives to negotiate on the issue.

Deputy Premier Ghafar on Ties With Sabah State

BK0904112591 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Apr 91 p 1

[By Joniston Bangkuai]

[Text] Tuaran, Sun.—UMNO [United Malays National Organization] will not field people from Peninsular Malaysia as candidates for all Parliamentary and State elections in Sabah, party deputy president Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba said today.

"UMNO's candidates for these contests will only be made up of Sabahans," Encik Ghafar said at a meeting with Kemas [Social Advancement Class] officials in Kampung Bolong here.

He also assured the people in the State that "Sabahans will hold the Chief Minister and State Ministerial posts".

Encik Ghafar, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, said the Federal Government had always wanted to have close rapport with the Sabah Government, but the bridge of friendship between Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur was "burnt" by Parti Bersatu Sabah [PBS].

He gave an assurance that the Federal Government would continue to provide development allocations to the State.

Turning to UMNO's expansion to Sabah, he said the party did not come to "rob" Sabah of its wealth, but to unite the people, especially the Bumiputeras [indigenous people].

"We want Sabah to have a good working relationship with the central Government and this could be achieved through UMNO," he added.

Encik Ghafar is in Sabah on a four-day visit to have a closer feel of the current political environment in the State.

His trip is also seen as part of UMNO's preparation for the Usukan by-election. Nomination for the by-election has been fixed for April 29 and in the event of a contest, polling will be May 11.

Later, speaking to reporters after meeting State UMNO officials in Kota Kinabalu, he said the UMNO leadership would not ignore the views of UMNO Sabah on the selection of the party's candidate for the Usukan by-election.

The party's supreme council will meet soon to decide on the party's choice.

On reports that Tun Mustapha's Kota Belud pro-tem divisional committee wanted him to defend his seat, Encik Ghafar said the party leadership would take into account all suggestions.

"He (Tun Mustapha) is popular and everybody wants him. But whether he wants (to defend the seat) or not I do not know."

Tun Mustapha, who also attended the meeting at the Usia Building, said he would leave the decision to the UMNO leadership.

"It is entirely up to the UMNO leadership to decide who they want to contest the seat. I will give my fullest support to whoever is chosen," he added.

He stated last week that a younger person should be picked to contest the seat.

The PBS is also expected to decide on the party's candidate soon. Two names, PBS Usukan division head Datuk Haji Salleh Tun Said and former Federal Deputy Minister Datuk Haji Yahaya Lampong, have been mentioned as contenders.

However, Datuk Haji Salleh, who is also a nominated Assemblyman, had said he would not accept nomination. He had suggested that PBS stay out of the by-election.

Cambodia

Hor Namhong Departs for Poland, USSR

BK1604073891 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 15 Apr 91

["Foreign Ministry communique"]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Krzyesztof Skubiszewski, foreign minister of the Republic of Poland, Comrade Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, has departed for a working visit to the Republic of Poland. Comrade Hor Namhong will also pay a working visit to the USSR at the invitation of Comrade Bessmertnykh, foreign minister of the Soviet Union.

On this above-mentioned visit, Comrade Hor Namhong is accompanied by Comrade Phi Thach, deputy foreign minister; and cadres from the Planning and Foreign Affairs Ministries.

Heng Samrin Issues New Year Greetings

BK1504123591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Traditional new year greetings from Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia' State Council, to the Cambodian people—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the respected clergy and beloved compatriots. On the occasion of our traditional new year, the year of the goat, on behalf of the party, the state, and the front, and in my own name, I would like to extend my sincere greetings and best wishes to the clergy, people, combatants, cadres, workers, farmers, intellectuals, and civil servants who have made great contributions to the cause of the nation and people.

I wish to express my affectionate respect and profound gratitude to the sick, wounded, and disabled cadres, combatants, militiamen, and militant workers receiving treatment at various hospitals, as well as the families which have made sacrifices to the supreme cause of defending and rebuilding the motherland, protecting the social gains, and maintaining peace and order for our people. I wish to highly value and extoll and enthusiastically welcome the great achievements in all fields jointly scored last year, the year of the horse, by the cadres and combatants of our Cambodian People's Armed Forces; cadres, workers, and civil servants at all levels and sectors, as well as our people at all localities throughout the country.

I would like to warmly greet and wish well the compatriots residing overseas who have turned to the motherland and have created all kinds of favorable conditions, contributing to rebuilding their beloved land of Angkor.

I would like to thank the distant and near friendly countries, progressive organizations, the international community, and all the peace- and justice-loving dignitaries worldwide who have fully and wholeheartedly supported and assisted the cause of peace and the rebirth of our Cambodia and people.

And I wish to express our sincere thanks and convey best wishes to ladies and gentlemen, representatives of various diplomatic corps and international organizations, and experts who have provided our Cambodian people with morale and material support and assistance.

Beloved compatriots: Last year, our party, government, and people jointly zealously strived to overcome all manner of difficulties and obstacles, achieving numerous great successes. Outstandingly, we were able to firmly safeguard the social gains then. By all accounts, the enemies have not yet relinquished their ambition of furthering the destructive war against their own nation. They have paid lip service to restoring peace, but obviously, in 1990, especially in the last dry season, the enemies painstakingly intensified military activities to wreak havoc and to bombard various townships, monasteries, and war refugee camps, causing considerable loss of life and property of our people. However, every barbarous enemy action was counterattacked and badly defeated by our Armed Forces and people.

Availing myself of this opportunity, on behalf of the party, state, and front, and in my own name, I would like to heartily extol all the comrades, cadres, combatants, and people on every battlefield and in every armed unit all over the country, who have carried on their struggle with courage and bravery to defend the territory and to protect the people's lives. The achievements you and the people scored with the most noble sacrifices to effectively thwart the adventurous military activities mounted by the barbarous enemies at the beginning of this dry season represent another new development we have attained in the defense of our beloved motherland and in safeguarding the peaceful lives of our people. The task was carried out along with the efforts displayed by our party and state and the contributions made by the international community for the cause of peace and sincere national reconciliation of the motherland, contributing to promoting the cause of peace and cooperation in the region and the world.

Taking advantage of the opportunity when the Cambodian people all over the country are happily celebrating the new year, I wish to call on the compatriots on the other side to see through the stratagem concocted by the leaders of the genocidal alliance. The maneuver is only aimed at fooling you into carrying on the war to destroy the lives and property of the people and motherland. They have never joined you to overcome difficulties and obstacles. As such, you should be realistic and start thinking about the fate of our nation, motherland, and people as well as your own interests. You should be awakened and try with all possible means to rejoin your families and the national society. This is to join forces to rebuild the motherland and to achieve happiness for our children of the generations to come.

On this occasion, I also wish to appeal to the other Cambodian party to show its genuine goodwill in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. It should immediately cease all hostile activities against its own nation and consent to sit again at the negotiating table to further the talks with a view toward putting an early end to the national conflict, thereby bringing about a genuine peace for the motherland and people.

I would like to call on the international community to continue its active contributions to closing the books on the conflict in Cambodia. This is to restore peace to the Cambodian people, contributing to safeguarding peace and stability in the region. At this point in time, the international community is called upon to support the State of Cambodia's five-point proposal on the reconvening of a meeting of the Supreme National Council, the implementation of a voluntary cease-fire, the cessation of military aid, a moratorium on arms and war materiel shipments to Cambodia, and the dispatch of a UN fact-finding mission to the refugee camps in areas controlled by the other Cambodian party in order to lay the groundwork for speedily arriving at a global political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Beloved compatriots: This year, the year of the goat, bears particular importance in the struggle for peace and national reconciliation—the principal objective to which our people have ardently aspired—based on the respect for national independence and sovereignty and the people's right to self-determination in conformity with the UN Charter and on the absolute prevention of the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. The genocidal alliance backed by some reactionary international circles continues to intensify its adventurous military and diplomatic activities so as to amend its past setbacks with the aim of overthrowing the authorities of the people in the State of Cambodia, thereby returning to the country the most abhorrent genocidal Pol Pot regime condemned by our people and all mankind. I therefore call on the military cadres and combatants from all units; cadres, workers, and civil servants at all levels and sectors, as well as the compatriots throughout the country to clearly see through the obstinacy and the unchanged stratagems of the enemies and to always remember their past and present crimes against the people. This is to further intensify our animosity against the enemies, sharpen our vigilance, uphold our spirit of self-reliance, promote our confidence in our own forces, hold aloft the banner of national concord, mobilize all forces, and take all measures to resolutely defend the social gains and restore and develop the national economy with a view toward improving the people's living conditions. We should actively participate in the campaigns to counterattack the enemies, to promote production, to increase income and reduce expenses, and to fight off negative phenomena, contributing to upholding social justice. And we should be determined to achieve new successes so as to bring about a genuine peace to the motherland and happiness and glory to the people.

New year, new happiness, and new victory.

Bou Thang Sends New Year Message

BK1604101191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] On the occasions of the traditional New Year and the 16th anniversary of the 17 April victory over the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chief of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] General Political Department, has sent a message to the CPAF cadres and combatants.

The message expressed sincere commendation and best wishes to CPAF cadres and combatants and all trainees for their new victories in all tasks.

The message also extended feelings of love and respect and best wishes for more victories to all comrades who are carrying out their noble mission in defending the border of the beloved land of Angkor, and deep gratitude to wounded and disabled cadres and combatants, families of fallen combatants, families of combatants, and families which have done good service for the nation for their contributions to the cause of liberating and defending the motherland and protecting the people from the threat of the genocidal Pol Pot clique.

Comrade Bou Thang extended warm greetings and best regards to sick, wounded, and disabled cadres and combatants who are receiving treatment in hospitals, wishing them quick recovery and good health to be able to fulfill their tasks even more effectively for the motherland and people.

The comrade also expressed profound thanks to the authorities at all levels, mass organizations, and people for their active contributions to serving the fight to defend the motherland, and commended the heroic units for their outstanding feats scored in the past years.

Comrade General Bou Thang also called on our Armed Forces and people to uphold the party banner in carrying out all tasks; heighten the will to fight and confidence in their own strength; always be ready to fight; continue to condemn, expose, and nurture hatred against all the old and new crimes of the genocidal alliance; be determined to repulse all enemy activities; and strive to seize final victory for our people.

In conclusion, Comrade Bou Thang exhorted all cadres to mobilize all their might and main in carrying out the party work, stimulate internal political awareness, preserve the good tradition of the Issarak Army [predecessor of CPAF], fight valiantly, strengthen internal unity, keep in mind that our position of strength is strength on the military field, and strive to ensure better living of our people.

Khieu Samphan Congratulates PRC Foreign Minister

BK1604055891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Apr 91

["Congratulatory message from His Excellency Vice President Khieu Samphan to His Excellency Qian

Qichen, member of the State Council and foreign minister of the PRC"—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed excellency: I am very glad that you have been appointed member of the State Council in addition to the post of foreign minister of the PRC.

May your excellency enjoy perfect health and greater successes in your noble mission.

Availing myself of this occasion, I would like once again to express profound gratitude to the Chinese people and the PRC for the most valuable all-round support and assistance given our Cambodian people in their struggle for national liberation. This clearly attests to the PRC's correct stance in firmly adhering to the principle of the UN Charter on protecting the right to existence of all nations big or small around the world. This correct policy has highly enhanced the PRC's honor in the world, particularly among small and weak nations which are always worried about their fate.

With deepest affection.

[Dated] 10 April 1991

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of foreign affairs

Khieu Samphan Issues New Year Message

BK1204114591 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Message from Khieu Samphan, "Cambodia's vice president in charge of foreign affairs;" date and place of issue not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades-in-arms, who are cadres and male and female combatants of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK]; dear compatriots:

On the new year of the goat, I extend my best wishes to all comrades-in-arms of the NADK, the transport units, and all ministries and offices, and all our people and compatriots both in the country and abroad. May all of you enjoy the best of health, a sharp sense of combat, and more and greater victories in our sacred struggle against the expansionist and annexationist Vietnamese enemy aggressors to liberate our beloved Cambodian motherland.

On this occasion, I would like to inform you of the overall situation of our people's struggle against the Vietnamese and their puppet stooges: **Section I: What is the overall situation of the Cambodian people's struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and puppet Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim stooges? What is the overall situation of this struggle in the military, political, and diplomatic fields inside Vietnam and in countries supporting Vietnam?**

We can very briefly answer these questions: The Vietnamese enemy aggressors are experiencing supreme difficulties, because the Vietnamese war of aggression has entered its 13th year. Also, the document of the UN Security Council [UNSC] has stipulated that all Vietnamese aggressor forces be withdrawn from Cambodia under the genuine control of the United Nations to allow the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny. **Section II: The attempt by the Vietnamese and their friends to scuttle and undermine the document of the UNSC:**

The principal objective of the Vietnamese and their friends is to destroy the UNSC peace plan that will end the Vietnamese war of aggression. This is the main strategic objective of the Vietnamese and their stooges, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets. The Vietnamese, the puppets, and their friends have used all means, including military, political, propaganda, psychological, diplomatic, and both direct and indirect maneuvers, to confuse the people. This is so that they will obey the Vietnamese and their friends in opposing the content of the peace plan document already officially and solemnly adopted by the UNSC to end the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia. This will allow them to continue to commit aggression and occupy Cambodia forever.

1. Military maneuvers: The protracted war of aggression waged in Cambodia for the past more than 12 years by the Vietnamese has been agonizing for them, but they are not dead yet. Struggling and writhing, they are using Vietnamese forces to further their adventure during the current 13th dry season in 1991 on the Cambodian battlefield. Currently, they are trying militarily to get some results for their psychological warfare propaganda to undermine the UNSC document.

Their scheme of military maneuvers and activities during the present dry season is in two main parts:

The first is to use adequate Vietnamese forces in coordination with the puppet forces to oppose the national resistance forces on battlefields throughout the country. This is to stop the resistance forces from expanding their liberated zone, in addition to the areas liberated during the 12th dry season and the 12th rainy season. They are trying to prevent this because they do not want the resistance to cut off major strategic roads of the Vietnamese enemy and besiege and attack major townships, especially the cities in various provinces.

However, this scheme has failed completely. In fact, the Vietnamese enemies have completely failed in their campaigns on the Kompong Thom battlefields, the Siem Reap battlefield, the east Kompong Cham battlefield, and the north Sisophon battlefield. In particular, in Kampot Province, not only have our national resistance forces been successful in opposing this scheme, for months they have been launching offensives against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. They are attacking them militarily and politically, using both the armed forces and the people's forces, seriously defeating the Vietnamese militarily, politically, economically, and administratively at village to commune levels and at districts to sub-provinces. Even the Kampot provincial seat has been besieged and threatened by the resistance forces.

In summary, the 13th dry-season scheme to prevent our national resistance forces from expanding the liberated zone, reaching, cutting off, and controlling major strategic roads of the Vietnamese enemy, and attacking populated areas and provincial capitals throughout the country has been completely defeated by the national resistance forces. As a result, many Vietnamese and puppet soldiers have been killed or wounded and many village, commune, and district administrative networks dispersed or dismantled. We have set up, reinforced, and expanded national councils in many villages, communes, districts, and even some provinces. We have also strengthened and expanded the people's forces in terms of morale, political awareness, and organization. We have also been steadily increasing our attacks against their political, economic, military, and guerrilla activities. Our liberated perimeters have been expanded and consolidated. The national resistance and people's forces continue to pressure their main strategic roads and major towns and provincial capitals under temporary Vietnamese control.

Second main part: The Vietnamese enemy have mobilized many troops and considerable arms and have sent them to the Battambang battlefield in their attempt to recapture the liberated Pailin area. What has this achieved to serve their deceitful diplomacy? Their deceitful diplomacy has been aimed at destroying the UNSC document, especially at undermining the stipulation that Vietnamese aggressor forces must completely withdraw from Cambodia under genuine UN control. The Vietnamese have been launching their major scheme on the Route 10-Pailin battlefield since mid-October 1990. They launched one big campaign after another to recapture the liberated Pailin area, using between 80 and 90 percent Vietnamese troops, heavy armament, including dozens of tanks, strategic artillery pieces, and heavy multiple rocket systems on each occasion.

The scheme to recapture Pailin was carried out by the Vietnamese General Staff in Hanoi itself, under the personal command of General Le Duc Anh. However, this major scheme has been successively defeated, campaign after campaign. Already from mid-October 1990 to mid-March 1991, the Vietnamese have launched three large-scale campaigns on the Route 10-Pailin battlefield. But the Vietnamese enemy has been defeated in every one of these.

In the framework of my briefing on this military front and on the new year of the goat, we see that the 13th dry season of 1991 is said to be over at the end of April officially. In about fortnight, the 13th rainy season would begin. No matter what they do, the Vietnamese cannot change the fact that it is now the last part of the dry season. When the rains begin, they will not be able to use tanks, trucks, and heavy artillery. This is their weakness. As for our national resistance forces, we are striving to attack the Vietnamese both militarily and politically, nationwide and on the Battambang-Pailin battlefield as the dry season ends and the 13th rainy season begins, from May to October 1991.

According to a comparison based on different factors that took place during the past more than 12 years and factors that are taking place at the end of this 13th dry season, and a comparison with the Vietnamese enemy in all aspects in the six-month-long 13th rainy season of 1991, we can see that our national resistance forces are overwhelmingly superior to the Vietnamese enemy.

2. The political situation between the our national resistance forces and the Vietnamese enemy:

Talking about the political situation, we must also compare the strengths of the national resistance forces and the Vietnamese enemy. What are the realities? They are:

First, in Cambodia, Cambodians as a whole have acute differences with the Vietnamese. This is becoming increasingly serious and is leading them to conduct more political, economic, and military activities against the Vietnamese enemy. In fact, for the Vietnamese to stay in Cambodia at present is like living on top of an erupting volcano. That is the truth, and the Vietnamese aggressors know that.

Second, as far as the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets, the Vietnamese stooges, are concerned, the Cambodian nation and people as a whole both in the country and abroad, know their true nature as the Vietnamese lackeys, who have sold their souls and bodies to the Vietnamese. They are traitors who have sold out the nation to the Vietnamese and Vietnamese puppets installed into power and manipulated at will by the Vietnamese aggressors. These Hun Sen- Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets who are the antinational Vietnamese stooges are hated, despised, acutely antagonized, opposed, and politically, economically, and militarily attacked by the Cambodian nation and people as a whole both in the country and abroad. In particular, the people are regularly attacking, dispersing, and dismantling the Vietnamese puppet administrative networks in villages and communes.

Therefore, from one day to the next, one month to another, and one season to another, the Vietnamese and their puppet stooges have plunged into a state of total dearth of resources, where they are only waiting to breathe their last. For this reason, both the Vietnamese and their stooges, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets, are stubbornly trying to oppose the UNSC peace plan document that is intended to end the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia.

3. The diplomatic situation concerning the Cambodian problem:

On the diplomatic situation of the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia, by the end of 1990 there were the UNSC document, the framework document of September 1990, and the Paris document of December 1990. These documents bear great importance and weight because:

First importance: These documents clearly stress that it is imperative to end the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia; to order all aggressor Vietnamese troops to pull out of Cambodia under genuine UN control; to bring in a UN force to organize and supervise free democratic elections to elect a constituent assembly, to elect a legislative assembly, and to form a new national government of independent, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia enjoying international guarantees.

Second importance: These documents do not imply that any group or country has made diplomatic overtures to force others to accept and endorse them. On the contrary, these documents are the result of an arduous, complex, and persistent struggle between the Cambodian national resistance forces and the international forces opposed to the Vietnamese aggressors' occupation of Cambodia on the one side and the Vietnamese aggressor forces and the Vietnamese puppet stooges on the other. They are also the results of the arduous and persistent struggle in the military, political, and psychological, and diplomatic fields over the past 12 years. It was through preparations made throughout 1990 by the UNSC permanent members that such a peace plan document was born.

Third importance: These documents are extremely reasonable because they only stipulate that foreign troops completely withdraw from Cambodia under genuine UN control and that free democratic elections be held under UN supervision. These are more than reasonable because these documents do not accuse Vietnam of committing aggression against Cambodia and do not specify that aggressor Vietnam must make war reparations to Cambodia. Neither do they specify that the World Court would charge and try aggressor Vietnam for massacring Cambodian people. These documents do not mention anything that would result in the aggressor Hanoi authorities losing face.

As for the Cambodian nation and people and our Cambodian national resistance forces, we only wish to see that all aggressor forces completely withdraw from Cambodia under genuine UN control, that Cambodia enjoy genuine independence and peace, and that they be allowed exercise their right to self-determination. These are the most elementary rights enjoyed by all UN-member countries. We do not want anything more than that. We fully and unreservedly accept all these documents and firmly adhere to them.

However, the Vietnamese and their stooges, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets, have sought by all means to sabotage these documents in view of preserving the Vietnamese puppet regime in Phnom Penh. In this way, they are relying on the Vietnamese aggressor forces, including the military, civilian functionaries, and Vietnamese colonists totaling more than 1 million persons who have come to grab and swallow Cambodian land.

On this diplomatic situation, if a test of strength is conducted, what predicament will the Vietnamese and their puppet stooges find themselves in? The answer is that they can be found in the seat of the accused. They can be accused of opposing the documents, on the one hand, and of sabotaging them on the other, if the whole world sees the evil, treacherous features of the Vietnamese and their puppet stooges in wanting to carry on the aggression against and occupation of Cambodia forever. This would constantly jeopardize peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. Consequently, would the entire Cambodian nation and people, the entire national resistance forces, the United Nations, and the whole world let the aggressor Hanoi authorities and their stooges, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets, undermine these documents? Would they bow to the aggressors Hanoi authorities and their stooges, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets, to let them make rain and thunder and defile these UN documents with impunity? Certainly no one would allow them to do all that. On the contrary, the people would continue to jointly pressure Vietnam in all fields and sectors. They have waged and are still waging a struggle that has brought about a peace plan document to solve the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia. After great effort and more than 12 years of the process, they certainly are not going to let the agonizing Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet stooges defile or tear up this UN document.

4. What is the situation in Vietnam?

After reunifying North and South Vietnam, the aggressor Hanoi authorities allowed their ambition to skyrocket. They immediately began implementing their strategy of the small Indochinese Federation as a step toward the medium and large federations. They were determined that they would become a big power in Southeast Asia, expanding at the expenses of other countries. When they sent hundreds of thousands of troops to invade and occupy Cambodia in January 1979, the Vietnamese shouted thunderous war cries. They were sure that the small Indochinese federation was completed and that they would be able to move toward their medium-sized Indochinese federation. However, their blitzkrieg became bogged down in the protracted guerrilla and people's war of the Cambodian nation and people.

Let us now look at the current situation of Vietnam and the Vietnamese. It is like this:

First, the world specifies that Vietnam has become one of the world's most impoverished countries.

Second, the Vietnamese people who want peace in order to build a respectable life have found themselves in the worst state of penury and on the verge of starvation. The Vietnamese people's GNP is a mere 30 dollars per head. In Thai baht, a Vietnamese earns only 750 baht a year. This translates into a daily income of a little more than 2 baht per head. What can you get with a 2-plus-baht daily wage in terms of food and commodities? This is the result of the unrealistic ambitions of Le Duan, Le Duc Tho, and other leaders of the expansionist, land-grabbing, and genocidal Vietnamese aggressors.

Third, Vietnam has massive foreign debts. According to official figures, Vietnam owes other countries nearly $10 billion. What can it do to repay the debts in light of the desperate state of Vietnam's economy and the people's living conditions?

Fourth: The world is opposed to Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia, has condemned the Vietnamese aggressors, isolated them, refused to have relations or to trade with Vietnam, and have pressured it to end this aggression and withdraw all its aggressor forces from Cambodia to allow Cambodia and its people to have independence, peace, and self-determination. Only after the aggressor Hanoi authorities do that would the countries of the world have relations and trade with Vietnam again.

In summary, the situation of the aggressor Hanoi authorities has hit rock bottom in all fields.

5. Concerning countries that are the strategic supporters of the aggressor Hanoi authorities:

Aggressor Hanoi is one of the front-runner members of the Warsaw military pact. Hanoi is also an attractive member of the Soviet economic bloc called CEMA. Six days before it invaded Cambodia, Hanoi signed a military alliance with the Soviet Union. Hanoi thought it was these military and economic ties and treaties that constituted strong support for its aggression against other countries in line with its small, medium, and other Indochinese federation strategies. Vietnam has since behaved as the Soviet bloc outpost of the Asia-Pacific region.

What is the current situation in countries that were the strategic supporters of the Vietnamese aggressors? It is like this:

First: The East European bloc has completely fizzled out and has stopped supporting Vietnam. Moreover, East European countries at present have even embarked on a foreign policy that opposes Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia.

Second: The Warsaw Military Pact which used to bully and threaten other countries has also dissolved. The Hanoi aggressor can no longer rely on the Warsaw Pact.

Third: The Soviet Union itself is facing serious difficulties at home and abroad, especially in its economy and the living conditions of its people. It has been reduced to going around begging for food from other countries. More republics in the Soviet Union, particularly in the South and in the Baltic region, are waging political and armed struggles to secede from the Soviet Union. The power struggle within the Soviet leadership is also increasingly acute.

In light of this, the Soviet Union has basically stopped providing aid to Vietnam. All businesses between the Soviet Union and Vietnam are now being conducted in hard currency. As a result, the already flat Vietnamese stomach continues to be flat and shrunken without any hope of a solution.

The entire world has made known that so long as Hanoi carries on its war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia, Vietnam and the Vietnamese people would never be able to solve the problem of obtaining sufficient food and becoming happy. What awaits them is an inexorable march toward death. The world clearly and unanimously holds that only when Vietnam end its war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia and accepts the UNSC documents will Vietnam and its people be revived, and the world accept to reestablish relations and do business with it again. Then, Vietnam and its people will be able to build the economy and bring prosperity to their lives.

Our Cambodian nation and people, our Cambodian national resistance forces have no desire whatsoever to be a foe of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. We sincerely want to exist peacefully with Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. Vietnamese leaders and people are well aware of our goodwill, for Cambodia is a small country with a small and weak population that wants nothing more than independence and peace within our own territories. Only by existing on good terms with all countries can our Cambodian nation, people, and race last forever.

However, it is these Vietnamese leaders who so far have nurtured the ambitions of realizing the Indochinese Federation strategy by grabbing and swallowing Cambodian territory and committing genocide against the Cambodian people. The question rests solely on the Hanoi leaders: Will they or will they not accept the UNSC documents to end the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia?

That is the overall situation we have outlined on the 13th new year of the struggle waged by our Cambodian nation and people against the Vietnamese aggressors to liberate our country and bring back genuine independence and peace and to contribute to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

In summary of the above, we can clearly see the outcome of the struggle waged by the Cambodian nation and people. This is the result of the protracted struggle in the history of our nation and people against the Vietnamese aggressors who have grabbed and swallowed Cambodian territory and committed genocide against the Cambodian people. The Hanoi aggressors have suffer dire consequences in their war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia over the past 12 years. However, our nation and people together with our national resistance forces must not become careless. One must not be negligent when one has to deal with the genocidal Hanoi aggressors, expansionists, and annexationists. This is because they have the Indochinese federation strategy to annex, swallow, and commit genocide against Cambodia as well as their tactics to dupe, mislead, and confuse other people, tactics that they have so regularly used that it is becoming a part of their own nature. Therefore, our nation, people, and national resistance forces must continue to uphold the fighting spirit to attack the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their stooges, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets, in all fields and domains until the Vietnamese aggressors and their stooges sincerely accept the UNSC documents which form the comprehensive political solution to end the war of aggression in Cambodia.

On the 13th new year of the most courageous, arduous, and persistent struggle of our nation, people, and national resistance forces to protect and perpetuate our people and race so that we would not become another Kampuchea Kraom, we must recall our long-term strategic political course taken after the end of the Vietnamese war of aggression. This is for our future efforts to defend the nation, to rebuild the country and the economy, and to bring sufficiency and prosperity to the lives of our people.

Here are the points to follow:

First: We must base ourselves on the resolute and firm policy of great national solidarity, without betrayal and without antagonism be the person black, white, red, or blue. In other words, there should be only a single nation and people sharing weal and woe with one another in order to prevent external enemies from swallowing up our nation.

Second: Adhere firmly to multiparty democracy with a parliamentary system, and to a private and market system. This is a long-term strategy to enable our nation and people to live with the overwhelming majority of the world's nations and benefit from the efforts to protect and perpetuate our nation, people, and race.

Third: We must apply for membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which is a regional grouping of countries with similar interests in many fields and closely cooperate with one another. This is not an international, mixed organization whose members have different interests, competing with each other, or regularly quarreling with one another.

Fourth: We must adhere to a foreign policy to amass as many friends in the world as possible.

In conclusion, I express best wishes once again to all comrades- in-arms and to all our compatriots both in the country and abroad. May all of you enjoy the best of health, a constantly sharp sense of combat, and success in constantly maintaining the great national solidarity in continuing to fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their stooges, the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim puppets, until they accept to end their war of aggression in accordance with the UNSC documents, withdraw all aggressor Vietnamese forces from Cambodia under the genuine UN control, and allow our Cambodian nation and people to decide their own destiny.

Indonesia

'Mixed Signals' From Australian Air Force Meet

BK1504095591 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 27 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "The modernization of ASEAN's defense and security forces and Australia's anxiety"]

[Text] A conference to mark the 70th anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force with the theme "Conventional Air Force Toward the 21st Century" was held in Canberra, Australia, this week. Those who addressed the conference was Professor Desmond Ball, head of Defense and Strategic Studies at the National University of Australia, who is known as an expert in defense, strategic, and security issues.

We are interested in commenting on his view that the purchase of jetfighters and warships by Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand is challenging Australia's superiority in military technology.

In his presentation, Ball came to the conclusion that the "meaningful" military buildup by ASEAN countries will increase tension and may lead to the outbreak of hostilities. He also noted that the amount of time for the ADF [Australian Defense Force] to get ready for action should the situation deteriorate, is decreasing.

Professor Ball's explanation was no less interesting. Responding to the presence of modern jetfighters and guided missile-equipped patrol boats in several ASEAN countries, Ball said: "In any future regional conflict, the ADF will no longer be the only force with access to a high-technology armament system."

What Professor Ball said contained some truth. The three ASEAN countries he mentioned at the conference now have F-16A jetfighters, which are not technologically inferior to Australia's F-18 aircraft. Ball added that jetfighters are basically offensive weapons and any country's purchase of such weapons will stimulate an arms race.

Obviously, we can comment on several points raised by the Australian defense expert, especially on the issue of jetfighters, because these points are probably valid as far as technological capability is concerned. But the 12 F-16 aircraft owned by Indonesia and Thailand as well as another eight owned by Singapore cannot be considered an offensive force, at least numerically speaking, because Australia has 48 F-18's.

It was once mentioned that the purchase of the F-16's by several ASEAN countries was aimed at countering Vietnam's MiG-23's as well as catching up with the technological progress in air defense. Obviously, it sounds strange that a country would seek to establish an offensive weapon system with only eight jetfighters. Even when the main objective is defense, it still sounds strange.

An allegation that such aircraft can also be used to strengthen the naval force to establish an offensive force is also an exaggeration. While it is true that our Navy has recently commissioned its sixth Van Speijk-class frigate, namely the KRI [Ship of Republic of Indonesia] Karel Satsuitubun, the frigate will be used more for protecting the country's sovereignty rather than establishing an offensive force. Therefore, we believe the view that emerged from the Australian conference might just be an intellectual exercise rather than a sober look at the real situation in Asia or the western Pacific.

A more valid output from the Australian conference should have been on the future role of a conventional air force, as seen from the massive use of air power in the Gulf war. One prominent aspect must be the increasing role of the air force in modern war strategy. However, we are reminded that the price of a sophisticated fighter plane is very high so only a few countries in the world can afford to buy and operate such planes.

In Southeast Asia, regional tension has now been reduced, which in turn leads to a decline in the military expenditures of the countries in the region. Meanwhile, in terms of defense and security, the practical and economical way to safeguard regional stability is by maintaining a relatively small but efficient force, coupled with closer cooperation among ASEAN countries, even though this regional grouping is not a military pact.

In this context, we indeed see no special development to support Australia's pessimistic viewpoint, which has the modernization of some ASEAN defense forces leading to tension and the risk of conflict.

Another message Ball delivered was that ASEAN would soon collapse if the regional grouping no longer viewed communism as a threat and instead adopted a different posture against this ideology. We have often expressed our amazement at Australia's statements and perception of Asia-Pacific security. Indonesia was once viewed as a security threat. Now, in addition to Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore are indirectly put into the same category. Doesn't Singapore belong to the FDPA [Five Power Defense Arrangement], which consists of Australia, Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Singapore?

Mixed signals have emerged from the air force conference in Canberra. A sense of anxiety as voiced by Professor Desmond Ball is just one view, and there is another view which calls for Australia's assistance to the regional countries' air forces in order to develop a common strategy.

However, the conference did issue an obvious request, namely it called for standardizing defense planning so no misunderstanding would arise if a country decided to launch a program, which may be perceived as a military buildup. It appears that Australia still does not understand the presence of the F-16's, AEW E-2C's, and other air force programs in ASEAN countries.

Philippines

Singapore Premier Goh, Aquino Speak at Banquet

BK1104151291 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, has said that the coming decade holds much promise for the region if we meet the challenges [word indistinct]. He says the region will experience tremendous growth provided the environment is stable, individual countries continue their peaceful development path, and an open trading system does not fail. Mr. Goh said the region was doing well [words indistinct]. He was speaking at an official dinner in Manila hosted by Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

Mr. Goh said up to now countries in the Asia-Pacific region and ASEAN have achieved economic growth independently. But if they work together, much more can be achieved. Asia-Pacific economic cooperation or APEC [words indistinct] in the long run. It is important that friendly neighbors like Singapore and the Philippines continue to cooperate [words indistinct]. Mr. Goh said greater regional cooperation will ensure that our efforts [words indistinct] effective in the Uruguay Round of GATT.

On regional peace and stability, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said the U.S. presence in Asia has contributed to stability and prosperity. But he added while we explore the possibility of alternative security arrangements, we should not abandon [words indistinct].

On restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty by the UN, Mr. Goh said it is good for the international order. It underlines the will of the international community to rebuff and resist acts of aggression against sovereign states and it upholds international law and order.

In her speech, President Aquino called for greater economic cooperation between the Philippines and Singapore. She said Singapore needs economic [words indistinct] overseas with its capital and the Philippines is ready to [words indistinct].

President Aquino said the Philippines is ready to formulate (?an) industry, urban-based economy [words indistinct]. She also commented on the growth triangle linking Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Mrs. Aquino expressed confidence that the economic growth it will bring about will benefit not only the three countries but the region as a whole.

Mr. Goh Chok Tong earlier called on President Aquino at the Malacanang Palace. Briefing reporters on the talks, the Philippine press secretary, Mr. Tomas Gomez, said Mr. Goh urged the Philippines to identify areas which are attractive to Singapore investors. He also wanted Singapore businessmen to look beyond the republic and invest in the Philippines. Mr. Goh said businessmen from both sides should develop closer contacts. [passage omitted]

Aquino on Senate Role in Bases Pact Ratification

HK1604122491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[By Tanny Rodriguez]

[Text] The president believes that the Senate can act on the ratification issue of the military bases agreement. In her press statement, the president was optimistic that the Senate will act based on the national interest and welfare.

The president made this statement in the midst of reports that most of the younger senators are amenable to the signing of another treaty for the retention of the U.S military installations in the following years because their support can be beneficial to their political careers.

In relation to the proposed consultations with the people regarding the treaty between the Philippines and the United States, senators themselves, according to the president, have said that if no treaty can be drawn up during the negotiations, there is no reason to conduct a national consultation. But at present, the president added, Malacanang is still waiting for some specific solutions, particularly from the Senate regarding the said consultation.

Aquino Clarifies U.S. Authority Over Crow Valley

HK1604011191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[By Tanny Rodriguez]

[Text] President Aquino clarified today that the United States of America is authorized to extend the use of the Crow Valley Training Range to other countries.

This, according to the president, was incorporated in the Military Bases Agreement. Mentioning Article 25 of the Military Bases Agreement, the president explained that the permission of the government was also sought every time an aircraft and personnel of other countries need to enter the country for training programs and military exercises.

The president said that this was being done by exchanging diplomatic notes which are usually passed through the Department of National Defense, and the final action is rendered by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The president made this clarification in the midst of Senator Salonga's exposition about the United States' collection of fees from its allies up to the amount of $150,000 per day for the use of the Crow Valley Training Range. Among those using the facilities of Crow Valley are Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Aguirre To Return After 'Enlightened Leadership'

HK1504051291 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 15 Apr 91 p 12

[By Ma. Caridad S. Bautista]

[Text] Former Armed Forces deputy chief of staff Major General Alexander Aguirre yesterday said he will work with the military in as far as programs and ideas are concerned. Other than that, he remained firm that he will go back only after an "enlightened leadership" is in office.

In an interview with newsmen yesterday, he said he is not waging a personal battle against just appointed Armed Forces chief Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia. "Imagine we have been working together in the staff (where Gen. Abadia was the Deputy Chief of staff for Operations or J-3). He was under my direct staff supervision until he was assigned as the Army chief," he said. He, however, admitted there is now "discomfort" in their dealings with one another.

Gen. Aguirre also intimated to the reporters that unless provoked, he had decided to keep his opinions to himself because he feels he had already aired his grievances. "There is also a proper forum where everything can be discussed," he added. He admitted that the statement of Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, whom he said he respects, had bearing on his decision to keep quiet. The defense chief last week asked Gen. Aguirre to shut up because his statements will only inflame sentiments.

He also told reporters of his plans of submitting a position paper to the Commission on Appointments on "How to insulate the military from partisan politics" as well as programs for the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]. He said the "campaign plan of the AFP," popularly known as the Lambat-Bitag [Net Trap] which has caused a significant decrease in the strength of the communist insurgency, should be reexamined.

"We are in a dynamic situation. We cannot be stagnant and say that what was proven yesterday can be good for today," he said. He therefore proposes a continuing refinement of the campaign plan—with the objective of crushing the communist rebellion in two years. The Lambat-Bitag was mainly the work of Gen. Abadia, then Army Operations Chief.

In a statement of media yesterday, Gen. Aguirre also clarified issues that he had hurled against President Aquino as well as those hurled against him. He contends that he cannot be accused of insubordination, as Mrs Aquino has accused him of, for he "did not disobey the President."

"I stated in my (resignation) letter that I legally abide by her decision and that it is a Presidential prerogative," he said, adding that he merely questions the wisdom behind the decision.

Gen. Aguirre denied he was obsessed with the chief of staffpost, noting that, "For reasons of seniority, I recommended vice-chief of staff, Major General Guillermo Flores." Gen. Aguirre said he is not against the promotion of an outstanding junior over his seniors. What he is not in agreement with, he explained, is unjustified promotion of juniors over seniors for reasons other than merit and performance, such as the "bata- bata" (buddy) system and partisan political considerations.

Abadia Says Rebels Sending 'Surrender Feelers'

HK1504130391 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The new AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia announced today that a number of high-ranking officers of the military rebels of the RAM-SFP-YOU [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union] are sending surrender feelers.

According to General Abadia, the rebel officers are returning for the sake of the military. He said that while he has not yet set a date, the military has already triumphed. The security threat to the country has diminished and he is not opposed to the granting of amnesty to all military rebels, be they the ones charged or still at large.

Military Raids NPA Camp in Oriental Mindoro

HK1504025991 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Apr 91 p 21

[By Robert Evora]

[Text] Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro—Natives fled to the southern highlands of this province as nine helicopter gunships from the Composite Air Support Force of the Philippine Air Force based in Lucena City, supported by ground troops, attacked the main operational base camp of the New People's Army (NPA) in the mountain boundary of this province and Occidental Mindoro at 3:30 p.m. yesterday. The base reportedly houses some 400 to 500 rebels, said military officers.

The assault helicopters including four MG-520 defenders, two Sikorsky and three Huey helicopters fired rockets at the heavily protected camp on a 10-hectare mountainous forest land.

Lt. Col. Edmundo Aquino, provincial director of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Oriental Mindoro, did not give any report of casualties and results as the synchronized air and ground attacks were launched mid-afternoon yesterday. The air attack was supported by ground forces sent to the battle area by PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno.

Nine police companies were airlifted here from Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas provinces to beef up the counterinsurgency forces in the two Mindoro provinces.

Troops Launch Attack Against Rebels in Davao

HK1504062791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Apr 91 p 21

[By Bong Reblando]

[Text] Basalan, Davao del Sur—Three rebel companies composed of some 300 New People's Army [NPA] guerrillas occupied a remote barangay in Bansalan, Davao del Sur to provide security for a top-level meeting, forcing residents to flee their homes, an Army general said today.

Brig. Gen. Hermonigildo Agaab, 601st Army Infantry Brigade cheif, said some 3,000 evacuees mostly farmers, fled their homes last week at Sitio Alu, barangay Darapanan, Bansalan, for fear of their lives from heavily armed rebels and troopers who may stage encounters any time.

A total of 1,000 ground troops from the 46th, 37th and 3rd Infantry Battalions of the 601st Brigade, backed by artillery, launched the other day a full-scale attack against the rebels at sitio Alu. The assault was made on the request of Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas.

Army intelligence reports said Romulo Kintanar, NPA chief of staff, will preside a meeting among rebel commanders Benzar, Ryan, Bibit, and Igod to settle the leadership crisis brought about by the recent formation of the NPA North Cotabato-Davao del Sur Command, under Commander Igod.

Two other commanders, Bibit and Bensar, who are leading the main regional guerrilla unit, are reported also to be eyeing the leadership of the North Cotabato-Davao del Sur command.

Agaab said the evacuees were housed in public schools in Bansalan with food and clothing provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine National Red Cross, Bansalan municipal government, and Davao del Sur provincial government.

Military Reveals 5 CPP-NPA Fronts in Luzon

HK1504035591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Apr 91 pp 1, 21

[By Jerry Lacuarta]

[Text] Camp Servillano Aquino, Tarlac—Military authorities have revealed the existence of at least five guerrilla fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), in Central and Northern Luzon.

Lt. Col. Samson Almares, spokesman of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) here, said the fronts use the code-names Avesco Corp, the Uptown Corp., Ilocos front, Ilasag front, and the Timog front. Nolcom comprises Regions 1, 2, 3, and the Cordilleras, and is headed by Brig. Gen. Ernesto Calupig.

Almares told newsmen that the Avesco Corp. suffered serious military setbacks leading to its dismantling. The rest are still targets of a full-scale implementation of the "Lambat Bitag," [Net Trap] a military operation which seeks to destroy communist fronts in various parts of the country by 1992.

The Avesco Corp. operated in Central Luzon and was based in Bataan until military and police forces undertaking the "Lambat Bitag" smashed it, Almares told reporters in a recent interview. He added that rebels practically lost strategic locations in Region 3 with the destruction of their front. Almares said this means that the rebels are no longer capable of creating big offensives in Central Luzon.

But the Nolcom spokesman admitted to newsmen the National Democratic Front (NDF), the over-all political arm of the CPP-NPA, "is strong" in Pampanga, especially in Angeles City. He said that Pampanga and Angeles are saturated with heavily armed rebels, who have the full support of the NDF.

Almares said that the government troops have found it difficult to dismantle Uptown Corp, operating in Aurora because the people in that province are protesting the military operations. He expressed fears that once the Philippine Army (PA) contingent is removed from the province, the communist front would expand its base in Central Luzon.

The Timog front, which has the Cordilleras as its base of operation, is facing complete destruction following all-out offensives against the rebels at Marag Valley in Luna, Kalinga- Apayao.

Almares said the military has set for June the timetable for termination of the Marag Valley rebels numbering about 1,000. The Ilasag front and the Ilocos front, are also under constant attack by government troopers, Almares said. The Ilasag is based in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, while the Ilocos front operates in the Ilocos region.

President Aquino earlier directed the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to jointly launch "Lambat Bitag" aimed at clearing rebel-infested areas of NPA armed elements by 1992. Pursuant to the presidential directive, officers of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, and PNP have mapped out plans for the implementation of "Lambat Bitag" in their respective areas during a recent meeting here. In that meeting, presided by General Calupig, the AFP nd PNP officers likewise assessed their accomplishments against the communist guerrillas.

Paper Describes Rebels Adaptation to 'Net Trap'

HK1004070591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The government's "gradual constriction" counterinsurgency strategy in a particular area has taught the communist rebels to be "flexible" by adopting their so-called "guerrilla tactics of concentration, dispersal, and shifting."

"They (military) can react in any way—stay longer or leave a certain area," the 12-page assessment paper prepared by the executive committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said. "If they stay longer, they leave wide open other areas to the same guerrilla front and other guerrilla fronts."

A leading cadre of the New People's Army (NPA) in the bicol Region admitted that the military's "Lambat-Bitag" (Net Trap) or the "clear-hold-consolidate-and-develop" operation strategy had affected them only in terms of "positioning."

"That is why it's very hard to qualify or quantify the gains or losses of a particular barangay or area because you are only talking about positioning here," the cadre explained. "For instance, a particular sitio or barangay is under the control of the military only when they are there. The moment they leave, we go back, and while they are there, we must and try to find another area."

This point was confirmed by a junior military officer operating in Marag Valley, Kalinga-Apayao. "The NPA insurgents broke into splinter groups when they learned about the planned military offensive there, leaving only snipers scattered all over the area," he said. "When the offensive was temporarily halted, they returned," he added.

The report prompted Major General Guillermo Flores, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) vice chief of staff, to order the resumption of an all-out offensive to "retake" the valley, which the military pinpointed as one of the two major guerilla fronts in northern Luzon.

"Where the (military) forces have concentrated and tended to stay, for a long period of time (one, two, or three years) to carry out gradual constriction, they are able to perpetrate the worst forms of human rights violations, drive out the NPA force temporarily, and cripple or destroy the revoutionary organizations, often through the forced mass evacuation of strategic hamlets," the CPP document said. The document claimed that this "total war" policy had further alienated the government from the peasants, who suffer most when forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their farms and implements and other belongings.

Launched on September 16, 1988 under Letter of Instructions (LOI) No. 23-88, the AFP's general offensive campaign plan "Lambat-Bitag" consists of two phases. The first phase involves preparation, which includes reorganization, retraining, and reorientation for the attainment of a "total offensive posture for the AFP." This phase, a military document said, would take six months to a year to accomplish. The second phase covers the general offensive, which involves the mounting of "general sustained campaigns" of "gradual constriction" in selected priority guerrilla fronts nationwide until each of the targeted fronts is dismantled "and the main enemy force in each given front is decisively defeated." This phase, the military document added, would take one or two yars to complete.

Taken as a whole, "Lambat-Bitag" is the military counter-strategy to the CPP-NPA's Maoist protracted war strategy of prolonging the struggle which will enable it to build up its forces in the countryside. In the military's operational jargon, this strategy is dubbed as the "war of rapid conclusion." It is aimed at the early strategic defeat of the communist insurgents through the use of major military resources in a "concerted and deliberate effort" to deny them the opportunity of further expanding and strengthening their forces and guerrilla fronts.

As of December 1990, Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos declared that there was 43 percent decline in the CPP-NPA forces from 8,496 to 4,841 from 1986 to the end of 1990. He noted that the number of CPP-NPA affected barangays last year was the lowest in seven years.

The CPP's assessment says: "On a nationwide scale, the NPA has proven to be indestructible and continues to accumulate strength as it relies on the people and their all-out support and on its flexibility, using the guerrilla tactics of concentration, dispersal, and shifting, depending on the circumstances."

"Still greater effort must be devoted to further accelerate the expansion and deepening of the rural mass base of the armed revolution," the assessment added, stressing the need to "continuously raise its political, organizational, economic, cultural, and military level to consistently advance the guerrilla warefare and the development of the requirements for higher levels of revolutionary warfare."

Senate Bill Branded as 'Anti-Foreign Investment'

HK1504034191 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 Apr 91 p 3

[By Johanna Son]

[Text] Foreign business chambers have branded as "anti-foreign investment" a Senate bill that would legislate a ceiling on local borrowings of foreign firms, calling it a step backward from a measure liberalizing foreign investments.

Senate Bill 1276, filed by Sen. Wigberto Tanada, also got a cool reception from the Executive department and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry [PCCI] at a hearing of the committee on economic affairs. Tanada's bill is premised on the concern that foreign firms may be crowding out Filipinos from the credit market, but government figures do not bear this out. In fact, the data show that foreign firms' peso borrowings form 1981 to 1990 accounted only for an average of 3.3% of commercial banks' outstanding loans and 2.26% of the entire loan portfolio.

During that period, foreign firms have been availing themselves of an average of only 49.1% of the maximum peso loans allowed by an interagency committee (IAC) led by Trade Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara. Foreign firms can at present borrow up to 150% of their equity, but Tanada wants it limited to 30 for the first three years of operation and subsequently to higher ratios set by the IAC.

Despite opposition to the bill, Sen. Vicente Paterno said his panel would report it out to the Senate floor for discussion—not so much to tighten current credit ceilings—but to put government policy in a law, not in administrative circulars that are easily changed or allowed exemptions from. But a committee report does not guarantee passage by the Senate, whose leadership sets priority bills. The chamber could discuss it, if at all, only after the foreign investments' bill is signed into law.

Paterno, main author of the Senate's foreign investment bill, gave assurance that the committee would adopt a reasonable debt-to-equity ratio and a "style that is not seen is anti-foreign investment but pro-Filipino."

"This would have to be seen as anti-foreign investment...and make life more difficult." Henry Schumacher, executive vice president of the European Chamber of Commerce, told Paterno's committee. His views were echoed by Peter Wallace, chairman of the Australian/New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, and Grant Pace of the American Chamber, who asked why the Philippines was solving a problem "that does not seem to exist."

While the IAC ceilings have worked so far, Paterno said: "That is no guarantee that it will work similarly in the future. A law is a way of ensuring that it will (continue to ensure adequate credit for Filipinos)."

In 1990, the government allowed 268 foreign firms to borrow up to P [Philippine peso] 21.6 billion locally. Of this, 185 firms actually borrowed a total of P9.6 billion, or 44.58% of the ceiling. That P9.6 billion comprised 2.98% of total loan portfolio and 4% of KB's outstanding loans last year. Since the IAC has successfully guarded Filipino access to domestic credit, Alcantara said "the bill may no longer be needed."

Tanada at first wanted to limit foreign firms to borrowing 10% of their equity, but Paterno's committee found that too restrictive. Tanada's revised 30% debt ceiling was still opposed by the foreign chambers, and Paterno said on Friday that the committee would still amend his bill.

Under Central Bank [CB] Circular 572, the IAC—composed of the CB, Board of Investments, National Economic and Development Authority and the finance department—follows three debt-to-equity ratios. These are 60:40 for exporter firms, 55:45 for manufacturing firms, and 50:50 for non-manufacturing ones. These ratios tie the disbursement (as contrasted with mere authorization) of peso loans to foreign firms' equity in the country at any one time.

The PCCI proposed that credit ceilings instead be set in relation to the total credit market because it is the government, not foreigners, that was its biggest competitor for credit. Paterno said the PACCI had a point, so that in that sense "we're looking at the wrong guy."

The Chamber of Filipino Entrepreneurs proposed that foreign borrowings be limited more tightly for the first five, not just three years and then kept at a 50% ceiling.

Paterno observed that foreign firms, especially listed ones, were normally "more cautious" in borrowing than Filipino firms.

While it was not unusual for Filipino firms to have a 2:1 debt-to-equity ratio, a 60:40 ration would already be on the high side in Europe, Japan or the U.S. he said.

Paper Reports Lower Balance of Payments Deficit

HK1504050691 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 15 Apr 91 pp 1, 6

[By Ma. Certrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] The country posted a lower balance of payments [BOP] deficit of $248 million in January, down by 49.69% from the yearago level of $493 million.

Central Bank [CB] Goveror Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. attributed the improvement to the stronger performance of the non-monetary capital account (loans and foreign investments). He noted that without rescheduling, the overall deficit would have expanded to $312 million. January's BOP deficit was also below the CB's projected shortfall of $363 million.

Net outflows of non-monetary capital declined to $27 million from $970 million a year ago, despite the negative $221 million errors and omissions. This specific account refers to foreign exchange which came into the financial system under unexplained circumstances. If the figure is negative, this means that dollars were pumped out of the system through salting or other unofficial means.

The CB earlier projected a net outflow of non-monetary capital of about $171 million. Loan availments matched repayments such that the loan account registered a zero balance in January, as opposed to last year's net outflow of $1.161 billion (in view of a debt buyback operation during the period).

Loan availments dropped by 58.4% as repayments declined 91% to $134 million. The CB traced the lower medium- and long-term loan availments to lower infusion of new money from the World Bank and other bilateral sources (specifically Brunei and Indonesia), at least lower than last year. But while January loan availments decreased during the period, the current level was higher than the CB target by 67.5% due mainly to "higher-than-expected drawdowns" of new money from multilateral and bilateral sources.

At the same time, availments of pipeline loans (particularly from the Asian Development Bank) to fund ongoing projects dropped to $12 million in January as against $20 million last year. However, this surpassed CB projections since actual lendings from the Japanese government were higher than the original estimate. The amount of rescheduled debt also contracted by 8.6% to $64 million following a 50% drop in interest payments to the Paris Club.

Foreign investments improved to $61 million in the first month of the year, up 69.4%. This represented higher debt conversions as well as decline in the withdrawals of shares of stocks of nonresidents from $31 million to the month's

$7 million. This is also the fourth consecutive month since October 1990 that the monthly withdrawls of portfolio investments were lower than the figures recorded in the same month a year ago.

However, Mr Cuisia pointed out that the month's foreign investment tally was lower by 12.9% than the projected level. But the strong performance of the non-monetary capital account was dampened by the poor showing of the country's current account position.

The wider merchandise trade gap of $324 million and lower net inflows of invisibles caused the curent account deficit to swell to 4243 million, up 33.5% from the yearago level of $182 million. The January current account shortfall was 2.5% higher than Government's projections as the merchandise trade account performed below par.

Exports grew by 6.6% to $626 million due to the electronics (up by $25 million), copper concentrates ($11 million) and gold ($10 million) sectors. The month's export performance was an improvement compared to last year's export growth of only 1.9%. But the exports figure was short of the target by $39 million as actual demand for garments, coconut oil, basketwork and dried seaweeds in internationalmarket was weaker relative to estimates.

On the other hand, January's imports of $950 million exceeded last year's level by 11.2%. The annual rate of import growth during the month in review was lower than last year's 21.3%.

The CB said imports slightly exceeded the projected level by $5 million, traced mainly to the unexpected rise in crude oil imports. The onset of the Persian Gulf War in mid-January triggered increases in the average oil import price by $0.50 and in import volume by 22.6%.

Finally, the services account yielded a lower surplus of $30 million as a result of lower receipts and higher payments. Invisible receipts declined by $3 million because of lower operating expenses of multinationals and expenditures of foreign governments in the Philippines.

Tourism receipts and overseas workers' remittances dropped due to the Gulf War. Invisible disbursements rose to 4393 million from last year's $388 million due to increased payments from profits, earnings, dividends and commissions.

Thailand

NLA 'Special Session' Passes Labor Bills

BK1504135991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The special session of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] this morning, chaired by NLA Chairman Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, approved the state enterprise employee relations and labor relations bills.

NLA members extensively debated the state enterprise employee relations bill. Those opposing the bill said that it violates the internationally recognized international law on labor. They also wanted state enterprise administrators to have real power to effectively and rapidly solve problems in their enterprises, as opposed to the power for this purpose belonging to the government. The members supporting the bill debated on why it is correct for the government to supervise the state enterprises, saying that like government employees under direct government supervision who have no rights to make any demands, state enterprise employees are also employed by the government. It would only be fair to treat both categories of employees the same way. Moreover, past strikes by state enterprise employees have caused trouble for the public and great damage to the national economy.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun then thanked the NLA members for expressing their views. The meeting subsequently voted 223-4 to approve the bills in principle in the first reading, which was followed by majority approval in the second and third readings. The meeting closed at 1800.

The bills approved today will be enforced as law one day after being published in the royal gazette. According to the laws, state enterprise employees will be prohibited from staging any strike or work slowdown; violators are liable to one year imprisonment or a maximum fine of 20,000 baht or both. Punishment for instigators is double that for strikers. Existing state enterprise unions have to be disbanded and replaced by associations. Each state enterprise may have only one employee association.

Sunthon on Opposition to Bills

BK1504143191 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, the supreme commander and chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, answered correspondents' questions after an inspection of the National Convention Center construction site. He said he believes the center will be completed on time.

Asked about opposition to the National Legislative Assembly's [NLA] consideration of the bills pertaining to state enterprise employees, Gen. Sunthon said the issue concerns the NLA and the government; it does not concern him. He felt that the probable reason for the opposition to the bills was that no one has yet witnessed the real benefits of the bills. The bills will have to be enforced for a while before they will prove their usefulness.

Asked about NLA members belonging to the labor sector who plan to resign if the bills pass, Gen. Sunthon said others will be appointed in their place if they resign. Asked about the possibility of an organized movement to oppose the bills, Gen. Sunthon noted that laws will be enforced to deal with such movements, and pointed out that there is no need to enact a new law because such an issue can be dealt with under martial law and related laws.

Gen. Sunthon said the rights and benefits of state enterprise employees are covered by the bills. He noted that state enterprise employees are also regarded as government employees and therefore, the same law should be applied for both categories of employees. Moreover, state enterprise workers already receive more salary, welfare, and holiday benefits than their counterparts. Regarding the reported plan to petition an international labor union, Gen. Sunthon said he did not care, adding that because we are Thai we must obey Thai law.

Anan on Dissolution of Unions

BK1604050391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun promised yesterday that the dissolution of state enterprise labour unions would "benefit all 56 million Thai people" including some 250,000 workers of the organizations.

"I strongly believe that the (new) law will benefit all 56 million Thai people who have to use (state enterprise) services. It will benefit the economy, (national) stability as well as state enterprise employees themselves," he said in a firm statement to the National Assembly.

Earlier, a labour representative in the assembly, Wichai Thosuwanchinda, criticized Anan's government for proposing two bills aimed at banning work stoppages at state enterprises.

Anan also confirmed his government's policy of allowing greater participation of the private sector in the management and operations of state enterprises. Anan reiterated that the two bills were based on "good reasons" and did not go against any international agreement ratified by Thailand. He said the bills were not aimed at depriving state enterprise workers of their basic rights but were intended to increase efficiency of much-criticized state firms.

"I would like to stress here that the government does not want to see the union movement eliminated," the prime minister said. The bills, he added, would set up new rules "that will benefit the people who make up the majority more than individual organizations which are the minority."

The government and military leaders have said unions at state enterprises stubbornly oppose plans to improve their agencies by allowing the private sector to take part in their operations. The unions argue that the bills violate the basic rights of workers and were obviously designed to terminate the powerful labour movement within the state enterprises.

Anan said the two bills still protect state enterprise workers against unfair transfer, dismissal or termination of employment contracts. The prime minister, one of Thailand's most prominent business executives, also dismissed concerns that his government's privatization plan would pave the way for foreign control of vital public utility services. "Let me give a guarantee here that every agency which is important to national stability will remain in the hands of Thai people. We will not invite foreigners to join in," he said.

9 Judges To Resign Over Ban

BK1604051191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Nine angry Central Labour Court judges yesterday announced they will quit in protest against the controversial move to scrap the state unions. It could be the tip of the iceberg with six more believed likely to resign tomorrow.

They claim a National Legislative Assembly [NLA] meeting which hustled through the bills to outlaw the vice of the state workers was a "parliamentary dictatorship." One judge said the axing of the unions was "destroying democracy" and believes the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] as well as the NLA "will not last long" because of their attitude to unions. The judges say they will walk out of their highly-respected jobs to protest against the passage of two draft bills to disband state enterprise labour unions.

Nine associated judges—mostly representatives of state enterprise workers in the tripartite labour court—say they are quitting because of their inability to continue to enhance justice for workers since the country is "now under dictatorship."

Judges Chiaosak Yongtrakun said other six associated judges would be likely to join the mass resignations tomorrow when they return from the long weekend holiday. "Workers will not recognise the NLA as it is not democratically installed and it cannot ensure justice for the people." The NLA yesterday pushed through three simultaneous readings of two Cabinet bills dissolving all state enterprise unions. Only four NLA members, representing workers, voted against the bills. "Our representatives in the NLA have done a great job but they cannot fight against the rubber stamp assembly," he said. He said the group would ask the director-general of the Central Labour Court to seek Royal approval for their resignation. He said the group did not want to fight the military. Each judge has decided to resign voluntarily.

Judge Satcha Surikun Na Ayutthaya claimed that the move by the Government, the NLA and the National Peacekeeping Council to exclude state enterprise labour unions from Labour Relation Act, was aimed at destroying the democratic system. "The Labour movement is one of the strongest pressure groups in democratic systems. To destroy it means to destroy democracy," he said. "I believe the NPKC and the NLA will not last long. The unions will come back with true democracy," he said. He said the passage of the bills have also affected the tripartite system because several state enterprise workers sit on several tripartite committees such as the Labour Court, National Wage Committee as well as others.

However, a labour expert told the BANGKOK POST that the dissolution of state enterprise labour unions under the new bills would not affect the status and qualifications of the associated judges.

Workers yesterday failed to stage a planned rally in front of the Parliament House because of the heavy security measures in front. More than 500 police were inside Dusit Zoo opposite Parliament. Only 20 workers turned up to give a moral support to their representatives in the NLA.

Meanwhile, Mr At Siat, an NLA member representing the workers, said he was disappointed with the meeting's atmosphere because several academics did not get the chance to have a say. "We have tried to do our best, but we failed," he said. He said state enterprise workers would not stage any move against the passage of the bills. "We can wait," he said.

State Unionists Warn of International Sanctions

BK1304012291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Apr 91 p A1

[By Sirot Sukphinyo]

[Text] State enterprise unionists, in danger of losing their long-held power to bargain with the government, warned yesterday Thailand is risking sanctions by international labour groups if state monopolies are excluded from the Labour Relations Act.

The unionists claimed they have adopted "secret agreements" with representatives of unidentified international labour bodies to back the campaign against the efforts to eliminate union activities at state enterprises.

The unionists said if the interim National Assembly approved bills to revoke state enterprise employees' right to go on strike, the international agencies would impose "sanctions" against Thailand. That action may result in the slowing down of international transportation or communications services for Thailand, the unionists said.

Unions of Thailand's state enterprises are members of several international agencies, including the ones connected with transport, communications and other public utilities. But it remained unclear yesterday if the agencies would risk offending the Thai governments and how much influence they can exert on unionists in other countries.

"Those organizations know about our problems and are willing to help us," said Sa-ne Tantisano, secretary-general of the State Enterprises Relations Group, the most powerful alliance of unions at state monopolies.

Similar sanctions have been imposed against some African countries as well as Malaysia, which was criticized for arresting union leaders, unionists claimed. They also said the sanctions affected the loading and unloading of cargo from the targeted countries.

Sa-ne's group has been stifled by martial law imposed by the National Peacekeeping Council after it seized power on Feb 23. Observers said seeking international support is the only thing the Thai unionists can do under the the current circumstances.

Early this month, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions warned Thai leaders against breaching the conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), of which Thailand is a member.

The Thai unionists were apparently caught off guard on Thursday when the caretaker government announced that the National Assembly would on Monday consider bills to exclude state enterprises from the Labour Relations Act and turn labour unions into associations, depriving them of the right ot all for strikes. The bills are expected to have a smooth passage in the military- dominated National Assembly.

Sa-ne claimed that the international labour organizations had vowed to impose sanctions on Thailand even before Thursday's announcement by the careftaker government but Thai unionists asked them to adopt a wait and see attitude. "If the bills are passed into law, the response by the international groups will be inevitatble," he said.

Labour sources said the "sanction strategy" against Thailand comprised three steps. "What is the most important measure, which, if taken, will have a big impact on Thailand, is a sanction against the country's communications service," one of the sources said. Asked if what will be the "D-day" for the sancions, the source said: "The day when the bills to deprive our rights are passed."

The union of the Electricity Genrating Authority of Thailand issued a statement yesterday deploring the move by Thai leaders and calling on members of all state enterprise unions to give up their membership. "Now that the NPKC, blinded with anger, has decided to go ahead with its plan to dissolve state enterprise unions, the Egat union would like to ask all unionists to quit their unions. We don't need to be united. Now everybody is for himself and anybody should do whatever he wants," the statement said sarcastically. It added if the bills are passed by the National Assembly, unionists must not register to become "members of worthless associations" to be set up to replace the unions. The statement emphasized that labour unions were an important element of countries which are bracing for the impact from rapid industrialization.

Police, meanwhile, have been on full alert against possible unrest by the labour movement. Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat said he instructed police to monitor activities of labour leaders before and after Monday's session of the National Assembly. "I've directed police to be on high alert but no action will be taken if protests by unionists do not violate he law," he said.

Minister Says 'Martial Law Will Soon Be Lifted'

BK1604030191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi indicated yesterday that martial law will soon be lifted now that the situation in the country was returning to normal.

Gen Itsaraphong, who is also National Peace-Keeping Council secretary-general, said the public should inform him whether they feel the situation is now normal so that he could convey the message to his immediate superiors—Army Commander Suchinda Khraprayun and Supreme Commander Sunthon Khongsomphong—who could then recommend the lifting of martial law to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

Gen Itsaraphong's comments came after the National Legislative Assembly passed all three readings of two bills that would effectively disband state enterprise labour unions.

There was anticipation last night that martial law may be lifted before the visit to Thailand of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu scheduled for the end of this month.

Asa Sarasin on 'New Dimension' of Foreign Policy

BK1504092391 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 15 Apr 91

["News in Perspective" feature, entitled "New Dimension of Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday celebrated the 116th anniversary of its modern history. In commemorating this master event, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin summarized Thailand's foreign policy aimed at making continued efforts to improve friendly relations and good understanding with all countries.

He said promotion of good relationship with neighboring countries continues to be one of the main pillars of Thai foreign policy. Apart from ASEAN countries, no other neighbors have enjoyed Thailand's special attachment more than Laos because of geographical proximity, history, and given the fact that both countries share so many similarities, be it religion, culture, or language.

Relations between Thailand and Laos have improved remarkably, the latest sign of which is withdrawal of troops by both sides from the border area. It is Thailand's belief that if neighbors could set aside any misunderstanding, avoid conflicts, and create atmosphere conducive to strengthening friendship and constructive cooperation, this would benefit both countries and their peoples.

Foreign Minister Asa said since Thailand is more economically advanced than its neighbors, it is the country's moral obligation to lend a helping hand to its less fortunate neighbors. And under this new dimension of the Thai foreign policy, Laos would benefit the most.

Turning to Vietnam, the foreign minister recently asked the Vietnamese ambassador to convey his view to the Hanoi Government that it is Thailand's wish that the protracted Cambodian problem went away. Thailand wants to see peace return to Cambodia as soon as possible. The Thai Government continues to support the solution to the Cambodian problem within the framework of the United Nations. A key to the solution is in the hands of the four Khmer factions. They have to talk and agree among themselves as to what should be the best for their people. Without the Cambodian problem, so much can be done in order to improve the situation in that unfortunate region. Thailand has a lot to offer especially in the [word indistinct] fields of economic and social development. Foreign Minister Asa vowed that Thailand's intention toward Vietnam is constructive.

Turning to ASEAN countries, Thailand envisages a possible change in role of the association as the fourth ASEAN summit is slated for late this year. The Thai foreign minister seems to have some agenda of his own of ASEAN's future. Thailand has been closely monitoring changing trends in the international trade. Some of the significant developments are the United States-Canada free trade agreement, the possible establishment of free trade area between the United States and Mexico, the completion of single market of 12 European Community members in 1992, and the most important of all is the delayed trade talks of the Uruguay Round in Geneva. Should the round collapse, it would lend a serious blow to the increasingly complicated global trade. Against this background, Foreign Minister Asa foresees that ASEAN member countries might have to reconsider their intra-ASEAN trade, which has in the past accounted for only a small share of ASEAN countries' exports. Thailand also wishes to see increased cooperation among ASEAN private sectors. Minister Asa is of the view that what each ASEAN government could try to do is to convince the ASEAN private sectors as to what they could concretely benefit from expanded cooperation among themselves. In addition, their governments will have to help create conditions conducive to such a new dimension of cooperation.

On the post-war Gulf region, the foreign minister outlined what Thailand would do to alleviate the plight of the people in that area. Although liberated, Kuwait has been experiencing serious difficulties in many areas. Thailand has been prepared to provide some help in these areas. The Cabinet late last month approved Thailand's contribution of 1,000 tonnes of rice to Kuwait. Other basic needs have also been offered to the Kuwaiti people by the Thai private sector. A minister-led mission will soon be sent to the war-torn region to explore what kind of other assistances Thailand can provide. The aid will not be limited only to Kuwait but the other affected countries as well. Regarding the question of recognition, Thailand is fully aware of this particular concern of the Kuwaiti Government. It has communicated to the Kuwaiti authorities that Thailand recognizes the government and a Thai envoy will be soon dispatched to take up duties in Kuwait.

Polish Deputy Minister Majewski Meets Officials

BK1604042191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Apr 91 p A3

[Text] Poland yesterday proposed a high-level visa exemption agreement with Thailand to allow diplomats and officials to promote contacts between the two countries, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Rawi Hongpraphat, deputy spokesman, said that the proposal was tabled by Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski during a meeting with Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Witthaya Wetchachiwa in Bangkok.

Under the agreement, officials from both nations who carry official or diplomatic passports can enter either country without a visa. If the move is approved, Poland will be the first former socialist country with which Thailand will sign such an agreement. So far the Thai Government has concluded a similar arrangement only with Switzerland. Warsaw is expected to need some time to formalize the proposal because of political developments in Poland, according to informed sources.

Last year the government relaxed restrictions imposed on Thai officials travelling to East European countries as it sought to broaden Thailand's economic ties with the emerging democracies. Thai officials can travel to those countries with authorization from their respective ministries.

Rawi said Majewski and Witthaya agreed to increase contacts between their respective private sectors to promote trade and investment.

Poland ranks third in Thailand's list of East European trading partners, with two-way trade valued at US$100.68 million (Bt [baht] 2.52 billion) during the first eight months of last year. In the past five years, the trade was in favour of Poland.

The Polish minister also paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and extended an invitation to him to visit Poland, according to Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek.

Majewski was on a three-day visit to Thailand which started on Saturday to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. The visit is part of an Asian tour that has taken him to Indonesia, Vietnam and finally Thailand.

International Forum Imposes Ban on Wildlife Trade

BK1604042991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Apr 91 p A4

[Text] Gland, Switzerland—An international ban on trade in wildlife products with Thailand was agreed over the weekend by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The move follows disclosure by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) recently of Thailand's central role in a massive illegal trade in endangered species. WWF dubbed Thailand the "wildlife supermarket of the world" and one of the world's worst violators of CITES.

CITES Standing Committee—the executive body of the convention—has agreed that notification should be sent to all 110 member countries recommending that they no longer be involved in the import or export to Thailand of any animal, plant or product of an animal or plant that it covered by the convention. The move is likely to cost Thailand millions of dollars in lost trade.

WWF welcomed CITES' decision and urged all signatories to implement it immediately. "If the European Community, the United States and Japan—the main markets for Thai wildlife products—impose a ban immediately, Thailand will be under severe economic pressure to comply with CITES and stop trading in endangered species," said Dr Simon Lyster, Treaties Officer for WWF International.

"Thailand is a party to the CITES convention, so WWF and CITES are asking Thailand to do no more than carry out the obligation which it voluntarily signed," Dr Lyster added.

Last week WWF exposed Thailand's illicit wildlife trade in a special investigative report which revealed that the country had no laws to stop the import of non-Thai wildlife species. Tens of thousands of protected animals and plants from all over the world pass through Thailand each year. They are either sold to tourists or local people or are given permits for re-export. Ivory from Africa, caiman skins from Latin America, orangutans and palm cockatoos from Indonesia—all illegally exported—are some of the species imported into Thailand.

Vietnam

VNA Rejects U.S. Claim of Troops in Cambodia

BK1604082891 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] According to XINHUA NEWS AGENCY and Radio the Voice of America, Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State Richard Solomon told the U.S. Senate on 11 April that Vietnam still maintains a considerably great amount of troops in Cambodia. VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to reject the above-said allegation. VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY recalled that by September 1989 Vietnam had completely withdrawn its troops from Cambodia. Any allegation on the military presence of Vietnam in Cambodia is only to cover the fact that the three Khmer factions, especially the Khmer Rouge, continue to receive military aid from outside and to increase their military activities in Cambodia.

Ministry Spokesman on Ties With U.S.; Cambodia

BK1604082691 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry maintains that normalization of Vietnam-U.S. relations conforms to the interests of the two peoples and of peace, stability, and development in Southeast Asia. The spokesman was speaking in an interview granted to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY on Monday on the U.S. plan to normalize its relations with Vietnam which has been mentioned recently by American public. He noted that normalization of relations will facilitate the bilateral cooperation to settle humanitarian problems and other issues of common concern, including the Cambodian issue. Vietnam is ready to continue constructive negotiation with Washington to achieve this goal.

On the Cambodian issue in particular, Vietnam reiterates its wish for an early overall political solution to this question. Vietnam agrees to take the framework document of the five countries as a foundation to solve the Cambodian issue on the basis of respecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and agrees to UN's important role in implementing the agreement on Cambodia. Vietnam stresses the need to convene a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia for the Cambodian factions to solve the internal affairs of Cambodia, implement a cease-fire among the sides, as well as the Soviet-American initiative of temporarily halting foreign aid to Cambodian factions. This will help create conditions to early reconvene the Paris International Conference on Cambodia on the settlement of the Cambodian issue on the basis of respecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and in conformity with the UN Charter.

Further Report

BK1604040991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Today, the spokesperson of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs answered a question in a VNA interview about U.S.-SRV relations as follows:

Unidentified VNA interviewer: Please give an opinion about America's plans on normalization of ties between the U.S. and Vietnam, which has been the subject of American public opinion recently?

Spokesperson: That is a plan attached to the normalization process of U.S.-SRV relations and to the process of implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

At present there are two choices: Vietnam thinks that normalization between the two countries will create favorable conditions for cooperation to solve the Cambodian issue, but the Americans demand settlement of the Cambodian issue as a condition for normalization between the two countries.

U.S.-Vietnam normalization conforms to the interests of the two peoples and of peace, stability, and development in Southeast Asia. The normal relations will facilitate bilateral cooperation to settle the two sides' humanitarian problems and other issues of common concern, including the Cambodian issue. Vietnam is ready to continue constructive negotiations with America to achieve this goal.

On the Cambodian issue, in particular, at first it is necessary to confirm that Vietnam wants to have an early overall political solution to the Cambodian issue. Vietnam agrees to take the framework document of the five countries as a foundation to solve the Cambodian issue on the basis of respecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, and agrees to the UN's important role in implementing the agreement on Cambodia. We think that initially it is necessary to convene a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia for the Cambodian factions to resolve the internal affairs of Cambodia, and to implement a cease-fire among the Cambodian sides, as well as the Soviet-American initiative of temporarily halting foreign aid to Cambodian factions.

These things will create conditions for an early Paris International Conference on Cambodia to settle the Cambodian issue on the basis of respecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and in conformity with the UN Charter.

Spokeswoman on Normalization of Ties With U.S.

BK1504144291 Hanoi VNA in English 1318 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—"The normalization of the Vietnam- U.S. relations conforms to the interests of the peoples of two countries and of peace, stability and development in Southeast Asia," said the Vietnam Foreign Ministry spokeswoman in an interview with VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY today.

Asked to comment on the U.S. plan for the normalization of the U.S.-Vietnam ties as recently mentioned by American opinion, the spokeswomun said:

"This is a plan linking the process of normalizing the US-Vietnam relations with the process of implementing the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Now, there are two options: Vietnam holds that the normalization of the US-Vietnam ties will facilitate their bilateral cooperation in settling the Cambodian question while the United States demands that the complete settlement of the Cambodian issue be a condition for the completion of the process of normalizing the relations between the two countries.

"The normalization of the Vietnam-US relations conforms to the interests of the peoples of the two countries and of peace, stability and development in Southeast Asia. Those relations, when normalized, will facilitate the bilateral cooperation in tackling their humanitarian issues and other questions of common concern, including the Cambodian issue. Vietnam is ready to resume constructive negotiations with the United States for that purpose." Regarding the Cambodian question, the spokeswoman pointed out that it should be first of all reaffirmed that Vietnam has desired an early overall political solution to the Cambodian problem. It has agreed to take the framework documents prepared by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as the foundation for the settlement of the Cambodian issue on the basis of respect for Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. Vietnam has also agreed to the United Nations' very important role in implementing the agreement on Cambodia.

Radio Views U.S. Officials' Statements on Embargo

BK1504130191 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Many U.S. congressmen have criticized the Bush administration's policy against Vietnam and Cambodia. Here is our review of this development:

Last week, U.S. congressmen continued to criticize Washington's policy toward Vietnam and Cambodia. They touched upon the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam, which has prolonged for 16 years, describing it as an erroneous action. Senator McCloskey said the embargo was against both Vietnam and the American people, doing harm to the U.S. interests in the region. It prevents the American companies from competing with those from other countries in doing business with Vietnam. Speaking at the Senate on 11 April, he noted that the U.S. is the only country that imposed a trade embargo on Vietnam, while many large European countries and Japan have invested millions of dollars in Vietnam. Japan has allowed its banks and businessmen to open offices in Vietnam. Mr. McCloskey said it is time for the U.S. to lift its trade embargo and to have trade relations with Vietnam. Senator Lugar, who has repeatedly protested against the U.S. embargo, last week said the U.S. should strengthen trade relations while improving its relations with Vietnam. He pointed to concrete steps to normalize relations with Vietnam and said the U.S. should change its regulations on limiting activities of American businessmen and those relating to the U.S.-Vietnam relations. Later, the U.S. should lift the trade embargo of nonstrategic items then normalize relations with Vietnam.

Meanwhile, a number of U.S. congressmen have expressed their resentment of the Bush administration's policy on the Cambodian issue. Four days ago, senators of both Democratic and Republican parties showed their indignation at the U.S. Senate Subcommittee for Asia and the Pacific because up to now the U.S. Administration has not taken any measures to eliminate the genocidal Khmer Rouge. Senator Robert Kerrey of the Democratic Party, Nebraska, who just returned from Cambodia, urged the Bush administration to correct this error by holding direct talks with the Phnom Penh government to find out solutions to the Cambodian issue. He also called on the U.S. to lift the trade embargo on the Hun Sen government. Moreover, Senator Alan Cranston denounced the Bush administration for carrying a double-edged policy in the Cambodian issue. The U.S. on the one hand wants to isolate the Khmer Rouge by political solutions while on the other proposes recognition of the political legality of the genocidal criminals. After hearing Mr. Alan Cranston, the congressmen affirmed that the U.S. cannot carry out such policy toward Cambodia because the Khmer Rouge committed genocidal crimes by millions of Cambodians. Mr. Richard Solomon, assistant to the U.S. state secretary, also admitted that the Pol Pot clique has committed genocidal crimes.

The U.S. senators' support for Vietnam and the Phnom Penh government has become a pressure to bear on the Bush administration, which has taken steps to meet this demand. But to the congressmen, what the U.S. has done to Vietnam and Cambodia is too late. They wanted Washington to lift the trade embargo against Vietnam and hold direct talks with the Phnom Penh government.

Hanoi TV Hails Efforts

BK1604132591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] On 11 April, U.S. Senator Murkowski presented to the U.S. Senate a draft bill calling on the U.S. Government to lift its 16-year-old trade embargo on Vietnam.

Speaking before presenting his bill, Senator Murkowski asserted that the bill is aimed at ending the U.S. economic blockade against Vietnam. He said that the embargo only causes losses to U.S. economic activities in the region and obstructs opportunities for U.S. companies to compete with other countries in doing business with Vietnam.

On the same day, the U.S. Senate Asia-Pacific Subcommittee conducted a testimony on Cambodia at which many senators from both the Democratic and Republican parties strongly criticized the Bush administration for taking no measures to eliminate the Khmer Rouge, who committed genocidal crimes. Senator Robert Kerrey of the Democratic Party, Nebraska, who just returned from Cambodia, urged the Bush administration to hold direct talks with the government of Cambodia. He also called on the U.S. Government to lift the embargo on Cambodia. Senator Edward Kennedy of the Democratic Party presented a draft bill demanding a stop to all aid to Cambodian opposition forces who are attempting to overthrow the current government in Cambodia. Senator McCloskey of the Republican Party, Alaska, stressed that the U.S. policy toward Cambodia is totally wrong because it isolates the Phnom Penh government—the only force in Cambodia that is fighting against the genocidal Khmer Rouge—and that the policy indirectly supports the Khmer Rouge through noncommunist forces. Senator Alan Cranston, chairman of the Senate Asia-Pacific Subcommittee denounced the Bush administration for carrying a doubled-edged policy in the Cambodian issue. He said that the United States on the one hand wants to isolate the Khmer Rouge by political solutions while on the other proposes recognition of the political legality of these genocidal criminals.

Radio on Thailand's Post-Coup Regional Policies

BK1604112691 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun last weekend made known that Thailand advocates widening its cooperative relations with regional countries. On this issue, our commentator on Southeast Asian affairs has this to say:

Two days ago, Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun discussed with deputy prime ministers and members of the National Peacekeeping Council Thailand's foreign policy toward neighboring countries. The Thai leader shared the views that Thailand advocates the expansion of cooperative ties with countries in the region.

Early this month, Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun delivered a report on Thailand's foreign policy at the parliament. He affirmed Thailand's intention to promote peace in the region and mutual understanding among neighboring countries. The fact is that after taking the post as prime minister following the military coup a month ago, Mr. Anan Panyarachun has continued the policies pursued by the former Thai prime minister especially those giving priority to developing relations with neighboring countries. He affirmed that Thailand continues to strengthen its relations with Vietnam and Laos and keep contacts with the Phnom Penh government. For his part, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin stated that Thailand will not sever contacts with Phnom Penh and continues the foreign policy of the former government.

As pointed out by the Thai paper THE NATION, the relations between Thailand and Vietnam and between Thailand and Laos will become warmer and develop quicker. Realities have proven this assessment. Last month, Thailand withdrew its troops from the Thai-Lao border area and the two countries have exchanged military charge d'affaires. According to a spokesman for the Thai Foreign Ministry, this year Bangkok will increase its aid to Laos to 7.8 million baht (about $312,000). With this aid, Thailand will help Laos provide more employment, training personnel, and increase cultual exchanges. And if everything is plain sailing, Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut will pay an official visit to Thailand on 17 April.

With regard to Vietnam, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai will go to Bangkok to prepare for the coming visit to this country by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

At present, the Thai Government keeps its invitation for an official visit to Thailand by Vietnamese Chairman of the Council of Minister Do Muoi. The Thai Prime Minister also affirmed that Thailand will maintain good mood and fine sentiment toward Vietnam if it cannot do anything better.

Public opinion in the region welcome those positive moves of Thailand toward its neighbors. The Thai press assessed that if the Thai-Lao and Thai-Vietnamese relations are improved, the three countries will positively cooperate in helping to seek an early end to the 12-year long conflict in Cambodia. This will be a practical step in turning Indochina into a region of peaceful trade.

Officials on Joint Tourism Venture With PRC

OW1504154491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1236 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Hon Gai, Vietnam, April 15 KYODO—Vietnam and China have agreed in principle to launch a joint venture to develop tourism at a major resort bay in northern Vietnam, Vietnamese officials reported Monday.

It will be the first joint venture of its kind between China and Vietnam since the end of the Sino-Vietnamese war in 1979.

Officials of Quang Ninh Province in northern Vietnam said the deal calls for jointly developing tourist facilities in Ha Long Bay along the Gulf of Tonkin. The area, with nearly 3,000 islets and rocks along a 95 kilometer stretch of coastline, is one of top tourist attractions in Vietnam.

The officials said the agreement was reached recently between Quang Ninh Provincial authorities and a Chinese delegation representing tourist agencies on the Chinese island of Hainan. Both sides plan to start negotiations on details of the joint venture, including construction of hotels and restaurants, they said.

The officials said the number of tourists visiting the bay more than quadrupled to 26,000 in 1990 from about 5,000 in the previous year, thanks to construction of new hotels there. They said they also plan to promote joint ventures with French, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese companies for construction of hotels in the area.

Party Organizations Hold First Round Congresses

Agriculture, Food Ministry

BK1504122791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] On 9 and 10 April, the party organization of the various organs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry held the first round of its second party congress. Delegates offered many suggestions to the draft document of the Seventh Party Congress, affirmed our party's leading role in the Vietnamese revolution, and expressed unanimity with our country's line of advancing to socialism chosen by the party and Uncle Ho.

The delegates noted that since the Sixth Party Congress, our party has carried out much renovation in its leadership and economic management and has eliminated numerous difficulties in the people's daily life. The delegates also contributed many opinions to the concrete issues of the strategy for economic developement, especially the strategy for agricultural and rural development. In our country, 80 percent of the population are peasants. However, over the past four years, the role of agriculture and the food industry as well as the countryside and peasantry problem have not been fully recognized in the initial stage of the period of transition to socialism. To fulfill the target of 30 million tonnes of grain by the year 2000, the party and state should concentrate investment in agriculture, continue to regard agriculture as the foremost front, and implement an incentive policy toward the peasants to encourage them to produce with confidence. The party and state should also concentrate on economic and cultural development in the countryside, especially the mountainous rural areas. Many delegates dealt with personnel work and the problem of developing trades and professions in the countryside to create jobs for working people and improve the people's material and spiritual life.

Communications, Transportation Ministry

BK1304142391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] On 22 and 23 March 1991, the Communications, Transportation, and Postal Ministry's party organization held its 11th first round congress in the spirit of renovation and with a high sense of responsibility.

The delegates enthusiastically contributed many views, most of which held that it was necessary and possible to formulate the party platform, but that various headings should be modified appropriately. In the platform as well as in the strategy, we should analyze more clearly the fundamental contradictions in our society, pay special attention to the human strategy, set forth policies to develop technology and attract geniuses, and elaborate on such major mass organizations as trade unions, the communist youth union, and the women's union.

In regard to the political system, we should not describe it too generally. In the modified draft party statutes, when speaking of qualifications of party members we should use the phrase: Exemplarily comply with state law, in lieu of saying: Do not exploit. We should clearly specify how many times party members have failed to conduct party life activities.

Many views held that between the two national party congresses, the first round party congresses should be organized only when so requested. Some delegates contended that qualifications in terms of age and level of knowledge should be standardized for members of party Central Committee level and higher.

Cuu Long Army Corps

BK1404113291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The Cuu Long Army Corps held its first round party organization congress from 26 to 30 March. Thanks to the excellent preparations, the five-day sitting discussed the party draft documents extensively and made many valuable suggestions.

All delegates held an identity of views on the five party draft documents. In their discussions they asserted the party's combativeness, while reaching unanimity on various major issues.

On the part dealing with shortcomings and mistakes, the congress suggested that it was necessary to admit that our party had failed to realize the significance of a commodity-based economy in the transition period to socialism. As a result, mistakes were made in formulating the economic policy. Delegates to the congress also suggested that the chapter dealing with national defense and security domain, and foreign policy should be separated into two chapters. They also said the aims of national defense and security should be presented more clearly.

Regarding general objectives, many delegates were concerned about the $400 per capita income—an increase of only two percent. They said that with this rate of increase it was impossible to achieve the general objectives of the draft documents. Many suggested that the aims of security maintenance and territorial integrity of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam should be added to the party documents.

Tam Dao District

BK1504133491 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Tam Dao District recently held its first round for the fifth party organization congress with the participation of 223 delegates representing 7,800 party members of 86 party chapters and organizations.

Delegates to the congress actively contributed ideas to the draft documents of the upcoming Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress. Earlier, at the grassroots party organization congresses, party members and the people expressed their confidence in the party lines and policies mentioned in various draft documents and showed their determination to implement the party platform.

During its two-day sitting, delegates from production establishments which faced difficulties raised various pressing problems of prime concern to party members and people in their localities. Most of the socioeconomic issues raised by these delegates involved stagnation in production at state-run establishments and enterprises, some of them operating at a loss. They also discussed the pros and cons of maintaining or dissolving these establishments. Many proposed measures to strengthen management at cooperatives and to improve the laborers' daily life.

Regarding agricultural production, after three years of implementing party Resolution No. 10 on the contractual system, it was found that the applied agricultural cooperative management form was obsolete because it obstructed development and progress. Some cadres and cooperative members from localities proposed that these cooperatives be dissolved. However, the majority of delegates to the congress opposed this idea and called for efforts to improve the form, activities, and management mechanism of these cooperatives to meet requirements of the present stage. These include efforts to strengthen functions of cooperatives, streamline the executive committees, eliminate middle men, expand services under the form of signing contracts, and allocating land to cooperative members for cultivation. The congress also elected delegates to the Vinh Phu provincial party organization congress to be held in late April.

Australia

Hawke on Improving Strained Ties With Malaysia

BK1604093891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 16 Apr 91

[From the "International Report" Program]

[Text] Senior Australian ministers are moving to repair strained relations with Malaysia which reached a new low last week when Malaysia's prime minister, Dr. Mahathir, refused to take a call from Mr. Hawke. Last night, Bob Hawke told a [word indistinct] conference in Parliament House that he is set to discuss bilateral relations with Dr. Mahathir when they meet at a Commonwealth Heads of Government Forum in London in June.

Andrew Shawn reports from Canberra: [Begin recording] [Shawn] Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed, is [words indistinct] false claims about his country in order to discredit it and to discourage investment. As late as the start of this week, Dr. Mahathir complained that Australia wants to impose its moral standards on other countries and act as judge in the region. But efforts are underway to resolve the strained ties between the two countries at a ministerial level.

Malaysia's defense minister is expected to meet his counterpart, Senator Robert Ray, in Kuala Lumpur later this month. And in answer to a question from the floor last night, Mr. Hawke [words indistinct] by saying he hoped to discuss the problem with Dr. Mahathir in June.

[Hawke] ... well, obviously we are going to very delicate issues beside this at this point of having had the opportunity of having direct discussions with Dr. Mahathir, but we will be in London together in a few weeks' time. I hope and expect that I will be able at that meeting to have some discussions with Dr. Mahathir. Let me say this, that as far as Australia is concerned, we respect Malaysia, and I hope that Malaysia respects Australia, and particularly respects what is the fact of our country, which is the point I have had to convey to a number of my friends in the region and which a lot of them understand. And this is, we are a democracy in which the government has no control over the media, and nor do we seek it. The best proof of this is that the [word indistinct] who criticized me [laughter], and there is nothing I can do about it. And importantly, and the characteristically in democracy there is nothing I seek to do about controlling them.

[Shawn] The prime minister did acknowledge the hurt inflicted by Australian media comment on countries in the region and offered this lesson to Australian journalists on how to exercise judgment.

[Hawke] I would hope that the Australian media in writing about countries in the region would understand the fact that those countries do not have the same historical background, the same institutions, the same constitution as we do. And it is not therefore always appropriate to apply to all other kind of moral [word indistinct] to Malaysia. That it is not appropriate to direct or apply to these other countries precisely the same (?kind of) expectations that you apply to Australia. It is not sensible to do that.

[Shawn] The deterioration in relations reached the significantly damaging point when Malaysia proposed an East Asian Trade Bloc and sought to exclude Australia from membership. The idea also has the effect of threatening APEC—the trade group initiated by Australia. Now, Mr. Hawke says Australia wants in to the watered down East Asian group likely to become a regional lobby group within APEC. Exclusions, said Mr. Hawke, would be inappropriate if that sort of demand for membership may serve only to reinforce the Malaysians' view of Australia as superior of obviously judging what is right for the region. [end recording]

Evans Opposes EC Easing of Pretoria Sanctions

BK1604072691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Australia has opposed the European Community's decision to further ease sanctions against South Africa. South Africa's president, Frederick Klerk, says the European Community's decision to lift its embargo on export of gold coins, iron, and steel to his country is positive and encouraging. [passage omitted]

Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, says the move by the EC was too early and Australia would not follow suit. Speaking in Canberra Senator Evans said Australia regarded the principle of maintaining pressure on Pretoria for reform of apartheid as more important than the economic pressures behind the EC decision.

[Begin Evans recording] It is our judgment that it is too soon to be lifting final trade sanctions. We have not yet passed the 30 April deadline for the return of exiles and the release of political prisoners. We have not yet seen the passage of the legislation that has been promised. The momentum is there, and we certainly think it will not be too long before sanctions can sensibly be lifted, but we certainly will not be doing it right now. [end recording]

New Caledonia

New Caledonian Delegates Leave To Visit Vanuatu

BK1304032291 Hong Kong AFP in English 2228 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Noumea, April 12 (AFP)—A team of New Caledonian rural development and land management officials left Friday for a four-day visit to Vanuatu at the invitation of Vanuatu's Government.

The delegation is to study Vanuatu's land ownership system to draw comparisons and to propose changes to the New Caledonian system. The officials will also visit agricultural institutions and farms.

New Caledonia sent a similar delegation to Fiji in September.

Fiji

President Scheduled To Visit China 22 Apr

BK1604095291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 16 (AFP)—Fiji's President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau will begin a week's state tour of China next Monday, it was announced here Tuesday.

Diplomats said that the visit underscored China's plans to strengthen its influence in a region where Taiwan has been courting close diplomatic and economic ties.

Ratu Penaia's visit follows closely one by Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu and will include meetings with his Chinese counterpart Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng.

Taiwan has ambassador-level ties with Tonga, Nauru, Solomon Islands, full diplomatic ties with Tuvalu and trade missions in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

China has said that it is concerned about plans by some of the 13 island countries in the South Pacific Forum to formalise talks with Taiwan.

The forum, which also includes Australia and New Zealand, meets once a year at head of government level. The conference is traditionally followed by a dialogue with representatives from China, Britain, France, Japan, the United States, Canada and the European Community.

The forum will decide at its 1991 conference in the Federated States of Micronesia in July whether to admit Taiwan as a dialogue partner.

The Chinese Embassy here said in a statement that the Fiji president will be accorded a state banquet.

His delegation will also visit Shanghai, China's largest city, and two other cities where they will meet local leaders.

Mr. Yang invited Ratu Penaia to visit China when he stopped here last May, after a brief tour of South America.

Mr. Yang promised then to cultivate closer economic ties with Fiji and the other island states, saying that China supported this region's environmental concerns.

China has become a major donor for Fiji and also one of the top trading partners in the Asian region. A visiting Chinese minister last month signed a deal to buy 40,000 tonnes of sugar, Fiji's main export commodity, in 1991.

Beijing is also supplying aid to build parliament houses in Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

Micronesia

President Quitting Politics After Poll Defeat

BK1204133091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 12 (AFP)—President John Haglelgam, beaten in congressional elections in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) last month, is quitting politics because he feels let down by the country's traditional chiefs.

The man credited with giving the country an identity it lacked four years ago said he would consider a posting with a specialist regional organisation or take up a college teaching post in the capital Pohnpei.

He dismissed the possibility of a role in the next government when he steps down from the presidency on May 13.

"I think this is the end of my public career," he said in a telephone interview Friday. "I think I've had enough and would like to do something different."

The 41-year-old constitutional lawyer became president of the FSM in 1987 but lost last month's elections for the 14-member Congress of Micronesia, which appoints the president.

He polled 1,280 votes, against 1,631 for his opponent, Joseph Urusemal, who had the backing of the chiefs.

"Joe spent a lot more time in the islands than I did in the past four years and that made some difference. Some chiefs supported me but more were behind Joe."

Mr. Haglelgam said some chiefs, who wield enormous influence in the outer islands of the FSM, were unhappy with his way of running the government.

"Some people who don't like me think that I was not consulting with my people and the local chiefs," Mr. Haglelgam said.

He feels however he has done "a lot for the country." When he took office in 1987, the FSM and its 100,000 people were in dire need of economic development.

The former U.S. Trust territory, stretching between the Marshall Islands and Guam, was also little known outside the North Pacific.

But within months of becoming president the islands gained membership in the region's main political grouping, the South Pacific Forum, and later to nine other organisations including the Asian Development Bank.

It has also forged diplomatic ties with 18 countries. "I knew that I had to work hard to take FSM into the international community, and I think we've had some spectacular achievements in four years," he said.

Papua New Guinea

Troop Landing on Bougainville Island Confirmed

BK1604040091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0323 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Port Moresby, April 16 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu confirmed here Tuesday the landing by up to 40 defence force troops on rebel-held Bougainville Island on Saturday.

Mr. Namaliu told reporters on his return from a four day visit to China that there had been a raid and he had ordered a series of reports on the incident.

"All I can say is that I gather there was a raid. Until I have a full briefing I cannot comment on it," he said.

Papua New Guinea's provincial affairs minister Father John Momis called Tuesday for the sacking of those behind what he described as a "totally illegal" landing by troops on the island.

Mr. Namaliu said he had called for a report on the incident and both the defence force and the police commissioner's office have been asked to provide reports.

His comments followed a statement by Defence Minister Benais Sabumei Monday that he was unaware of any landing taking place.

It was the first reported clash between Papua New Guinea troops and Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) militants since the Honiara peace declaration signed in the Solomon Islands capital on January 23.

Father Momis, co-ordinator of the program to restore normalcy to the island, condemned the action and said it could jeopardise efforts to implement the peace declaration.

He accused the military of trying to usurp the power of democratically-elected leaders, and continually working against the strategy of a peaceful reconcilliation between Bougainville's secessionist leaders and the government.

He also said it showed the need for Australia to participate in a proposed Multinational Supervisory Team (MST) to act as a neutral keeper of the peace on the island.

He said he was "totally disgusted" with the way the exercise was launched "without my knowledge," or apparently that of the defence minister.

"...The action by the defence forces calls for total condemnation and calls for the dismissal of those who are responsible," Father Momis told a news conference.

"If we want democracy to thrive in this country, if we want our 'raskals' (criminal gangs) and the little people to abide by the laws of this country, the leaders themselves must take the initiative to abide by the laws themselves."

Father Momis said he had been unable to find out who authorised the raid, or to ascertain the motive behind it.

Father Momis said Mr. Sabumei had assured him that he knew nothing about the raid, and had been unable to get confirmation from the defence force commander, Brigadier General Rochus Lokinap, or the officer-in-charge of Buka, Colonel Leo Nuia.

Details of the raid are still sketchy, but it occurred Saturday afternoon when a Papua New Guinea patrol boat shelled Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) militants at their camp at Kobuan on the south side of Arawa.

Between 20 and 40 troops reportedly landed north of Arawa at about the same time, set up a road block and blew up a bridge at Manetei, effectively cutting the island in half.

Father Momis said he had yet to be officially advised about the raid, and slated the bureaucracy for failing to keep the government informed.

He had learnt of the raid in the newspapers, and had only received confirmation of a military exercise from Mr. Sabumei late Monday.

Father Momis said he was unable to say whether the raid stemmed from a unilateral decision by Col. Nuia, or whether it was authorised higher up in the defence force, or in the government offices at Waigani.

"What Col. Nuia—or whoever has authorised it—is guilty of is misuse and abuse of power," said Father Momis, who added he was placing his own safety in jeopardy by speaking out.

BRA Australian representative, Moses Havini, has condemned the raid, and accused deputy Prime Minister Ted Diro of using Mr. Namaliu's absence to order troops back on to Bougainville.

They had withdrawn in March last year after failing to quell the bloody secessionist uprising.

Papua New Guinea troops regained control of Buka, off the northern tip of the main Bougainville Island, in late August last year in a similar exercise when Mr. Namaliu was overseas and Mr. Diro was acting prime minister.

Defense Force Raid Condemned

BK1604065691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Papua New Guinea's provincial affairs minister, Father John Momis, has condemned a raid on Bougainville at the weekend by the Defense Force. Father Momis demanded those responsible for the raid be dismissed.

Earlier, the prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, confirmed that a raid had taken place and was waiting for further details before making a statement later today.

This report is from Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent, Brian Abbott:

[Begin Abbott recording] An emotional Father Momis called the attack totally illegal and irresponsible. He said it jeopardized the chances of a negotiated settlement of the Bougainville secessionist crisis. He accused whoever approved of the attack of abuse of their power, saying they threatened Papua New Guinea's democracy.

Father Momis said Bougainvilleans who have never trusted the government must conclude that the government had broken promises [words indistinct] no commitment to the Honiara Peace Declaration which bans the use of force. Father Momis said he believed his own life is now at greater risk by speaking out against the actions of the PNG Defence Force. [end recording]